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THE HONG KONG SUNDAY HERALD

No. 67.

HONG KONG, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1946.

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R.N. Tug Founders Off H.K.

Two British officers, one of them her master, and 19 Chinese seamen are believed to have lost their lives when H. M. Tug "Enticer" foundered in heavy seas south of Hong Kong early Saturday morning. She was trying to take in tow the disabled "Rosebank."

An official Naval communiqué yesterday evening said:—
"As a result of heavy weather encountered while attempting to take in tow the ss. 'Rosebank', to the east of Hainan Island, it is regretted that H. M. Tug 'Enticer' foundered in the early hours of the 21st. A list of survivors and those missing will be issued as soon as it is known and the next of kin informed."

On Monday last, the "Rosebank" developed trouble when she was about 250 miles south-west of Hong Kong. The salvage vessel "King Salvor" was sent from Hong Kong to take her in tow but developed engine trouble in very heavy seas and was able to do little more for a time than just keep her head into it.

On Thursday, the escort vessel "Alacrity" and the ocean-going tug "Enticer" were sent to the assistance of the two vessels. "Enticer" tried to tow "Rosebank", despite the almost impossible weather conditions, and by midnight on Friday was taking in tow a heavy seas which her pumps could not cope with.

At 4 o'clock yesterday morning, she foundered.
Of her crew 6 British officers and 27 Chinese, only three officers and 8 ratings are believed to have been picked up. The master was drowned but his body has since been recovered.

"Alacrity" and "King Salvor" are still on the scene and at 10 o'clock yesterday morning H.M.S. "Constance" destroyer, went out to join them.

EARTHQUAKE ROCKS JAPAN Probably Worst Ever Recorded: Tidal Waves Add To Death Toll; Many Buried Alive

Severe Tremors In Formosa

Tokyo, Dec. 21.
The most disastrous earthquake and tidal waves in recent history struck Southern Honshu and Shikoku Island early today leaving in its wake hundreds dead, injured and homeless and property damages estimated at a billion yen.

United Press tabulations up to 6 p.m. Tokyo time showed fatal casualties ranging from 462 to more than 1,500, a total of 628 persons injured, mostly seriously, and 823 still missing. Property losses included 2,414 demolished homes and 11,830 damaged buildings including homes and warehouses. Over 50 persons were listed as "buried alive" and over 200 vessels lost.

Rail communications were seriously severed at three points along the stretch of the main Sanyo system serving communities on the lower arm of Southern Honshu as a result of landslides and tidal waves.

As minor quakes continued to jolt the devastated cities at intervals of approximately half an hour, Japanese seismologists said the main tremor was definitely bigger than the 1923 quake which levelled the Tokyo and Yokohama areas and that the latest shifting subterranean strata may have produced the strongest earthquake ever recorded in world history.

Experts said the death toll would be much greater many times greater and damage, extremely widespread if the quake had occurred inland instead of far out at sea.

The quake and tidal waves created damage in an area extending roughly 400 miles from Central Honshu to Northern Kyushu within a belt of 150 miles which contains the "Inland Sea"—the national park strewn with picturesque islands and fishing boats.

The town of Kanran on the coast south of Osaka was struck

by six successive tidal waves which pounded the greater part of the town into debris, drowning many caught unawares in the darkness and sweeping others out to sea. Seven thousand houses were under water.

Eye-witness reports said thirty-clad residents of Kanran—a city of 29,000—climbed to the rooftops and elevated grounds in the early dark hours to escape the "horror and destruction."

Tidal Waves
The first wave struck about one hour after the quake, an eye-witness said, and was preceded by a foreboding rumble like thunder.

"The second wave was worst," said a reporter of Kyoto, the Japanese news service.
"It came 40 minutes later. It was a wall of water more than 10 feet high! It struck the town with terrifying force after it had shattered the small breakwater embankment. Water came through the streets in torrents flooding every house and washing away furniture, mowing down fences, overturning and sweeping away everything that was loose, including vehicles. Large trees were uprooted."

"The fleet of small fishing vessels inside the bay were carried into the city with the full force of the tidal wave behind them adding to the chaos and damage."

The last of the six waves struck at 8:30 a.m. local time.

British Personnel Missing
Further southwest, the British occupation headquarters in Hiroshima Prefecture reported a member of their personnel missing at Miho while several British buildings suffered damage.

U.S. Eighth Army headquarters in Yokohama reported no American casualties. Headquarters said landslides were blocking tunnels delaying or stopping transportation in Central Honshu and reported that the town of Shingu was still in flames late this afternoon; the fires appeared to be out of control.

Military Government officials said the city of Osaka has five days' rations for 50,000 persons available for release. There are large quantities of imported grain in Kobe which previously was released for the Japanese. Army officials said that due to the disruption of railway facilities in Wakayama Prefecture it might be necessary to supply the stricken areas with boats.

"Wiped Out"
The worst effects were caused at Shikoku Island where an American military team's report from Kochi city said 200

(Continued on Page 8, Col. 5)

DSO FOR LT. STANTON

Telegraphic advice was received by Jardine's from London yesterday that Sub-Lieut. R. G. Stanton, R.N.R., who is now serving as Chief Officer of the s.s. "Wingspan," has been awarded the D.S.O. for his gallantry in the action in which the s.s. "Limo" was sunk after battling against great odds in an attack on a Japanese convoy in February 1942.

He was then First Lieutenant of the "Limo," under Lieut. Thomas Williamson, R.N.R., who has just been posthumously awarded the V.C. for the same action.

BBC Bars Hypnotist

London, Dec. 20.
The British Broadcasting Corporation experimented with a television programme featuring a British hypnotist, but dropped the idea quickly when four of the six judges felt under the hypnotist's spell and went into a trance.

When they were shaken into wakefulness, they told the hypnotist, Mr. Peter Casson, that he was so good they would not consider putting him on the programme to broadcast to the public.

"We consider it would be too dangerous," the judges declared.—United Press.

Ships' Cooks Want Pay Increase

San Francisco, Dec. 21.
CIO Marine Cooks and Stewards became the second West Coast maritime union in 24 hours to make specific 1947 wage demands when it announced it will ask a 25 per cent "cost of living" wage increase from Pacific Coast shipowners.

On Friday the CIO International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union presented a formal demand for a 14-cent hourly increase.

A third CIO maritime union, the American Communications Association, is also formulating wage demands for the January 1 wage reopening discussion.—United Press.

UNO To Look Into Greek Problem

Lake Success, N.Y., Dec. 20.
A commission to investigate border disturbances between Greece and Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, composed of 11 members of the Security Council, will be set up after January 1.

The Security Council reached this decision last night after a seven and a half hours session during which all sides made concessions to secure an agreement and during which there was no threat of the veto from anyone.

M. Gromyko (Russia) pressed for an investigation, not to be confined to Greece's frontier, but to apply to the whole of Greece. This, he asserted, was necessary to reveal the "anti-democratic character" of the Government of Dr. Tsaldaris— which claims that Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia are helping guerrilla bands on Greek borders.

The present situation, in Greece amounted to civil war with democratic elements being persecuted by the Tsaldaris regime, the Soviet delegate stated. He claimed that the presence of foreign troops was largely responsible for the situation.

Sir Alexander Cadogan (Britain) criticized the Soviet demand for broadening of the

Twelve Convicts Escape

Twelve convicts escaped from Stanley gaol about 2.30 yesterday morning.

Late last night, it was learned that five of the men were recaptured at 6 p.m. on Po To Island, the largest and southernmost of the group of islands lying off Cape D'Aguiar and the Stanley Peninsula. It was hoped that the other seven will be rounded up shortly.

The 12 escapees were:—
Convict 154 Chan Chi, 131 Chan Ming, 192 Kwok Wan, 146 Chan Ki, 674 Leung Yung, 673 Tung Lee, 812 Li Siu, 219 Lok Cheuk, 137 Ma Wai, 280 Yeung Tin-ling, 103 Cheung Wah-choi, and 38 Wong Fat-ming.

An investigation is now being carried out by the prison authorities to determine how the convicts made their escape.

Swiss Nazi Sentenced

Zurich, Dec. 20.
Sentence of 20 years' penal servitude was passed today on Josef Barwisch, 47-year-old Austrian-born Swiss, alleged to have plotted the incorporation of part of Switzerland in Germany during the war, by the Federal Court at Chur, eastern Switzerland.

The sentence is the maximum penalty provided by law.

Barwisch, who was accused of treason and espionage, was alleged to have planned a Nazi putsch in 1941 to make the German-speaking part of Switzerland a German province.

The chief evidence of the prosecution consisted of secret documents dictated by the accused and found by the Americans in the archives of Arthur Seyss Inquart, Governor of Austria, who was executed at Nuremberg for war crimes. He denied authorship of these documents.—Reuter.

Machine-Gun Duels In Hanoi Streets

Salon, Dec. 20.
An official spokesman today said that machine-gun battles were raging in the streets of Hanoi between the French and Viet Nam forces.

The spokesman said the attack was opened last night by Viet Nam forces with artillery bombardment. Water and electricity supplies in Hanoi had been cut and telephone communications were knocked out by the shell fire.

Commissioner Francois Sainteny was seriously wounded by the bombardment.

A communiqué said the attack surprised the French after a day of "courtous contacts" between the French and Viet Nam authorities.

Meanwhile, in Paris the Communist members walked out of the meeting of the Assembly committee on national defence during a violent debate on the Indo-China situation. They objected to the nation praising the troops in Indo-China for "their efforts in maintaining the extreme Orient the civilizing and pacifying presence of France." They claimed that the motion tended to disavow the appeasement policy of the government of which they were in favour.

Admiral Thierry d'Argeuville left by plane to return to his post of governor-general of Indo-China after conferring with Leon Blum, French premier, on the trouble between the French and Viet Nam, centering mainly on the military control of the rich province of Cochinchina, which will soon vote on joining the Viet Nam Republic or remaining in the Indo-Chinese federation within the French empire.

Viet Nam also disagrees with the French colonial administration on the view that the French should control finances and politics in all Indo-China states.—United Press.

Protest To Princess Elizabeth

London, Dec. 21.
The League Against Cruel Sports has sent a letter to Princess Elizabeth protesting against the shooting of a stag on the occasion of her recent visit to Inverness-shire, home of Lord Elphinstone the Queen's brother-in-law.

The letter was signed by the secretary, J. C. Sharp, and read as follows:—
"Your Royal Highness. My committee greatly regrets your action in shooting a stag for sport, particularly in view of your connection with the Girl Guide movement whose Sixth Law states that a Guide is a friend to animals. I have the honour to be, Sir, Canon F. Lewis Donaldson, sub-Dean of Westminster, is treasurer of the League which is one of several organisations of ardent zoophiles in Britain."

London underground stations now carry a poster from one such organisation proclaiming that lasting peace among nations is impossible until men learn to be kind to dumb animals.

The League's bulletin mentioned that Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret-Rose had their first experience of fox-hunting in Windsor Park recently. The bulletin gave a description of "cubbing" and asked "Is this the sport the Princesses are 'being initiated into'?"—United Press.

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Viet Nam also disagrees with the French colonial administration on the view that the French should control finances and politics in all Indo-China states.—United Press.

"MONTY OF THE FAR EAST"

London, Dec. 21.
Major-General T. Wynford Rees, commander of the famed 19th India "Dagger" Division that took Mandalay, has been appointed Colonel of the Rajputana Rifles. It was officially announced last night.

General Wynford Rees is a Welshman and has been described as the "Montgomery of the Far East."—Reuter.

Austin Works To Close Down?

Birmingham, Dec. 20.
The Austin Motor Company of Birmingham, with a production rate of more than 2,000 cars per week, tonight told its 17,000 employees that the factory would remain closed for an indefinite period after the Christmas holidays because of the shortage of fuel.

Announcing the shutdown, Mr. L. P. Lord, Chairman, said that receipts of coal at the factory—800 tons per week—were just enough to keep the factory and its pipes from freezing. An additional 1,000 tons each week was required to maintain production.

The Ministry of Fuel and Power stated tonight that it was already considering measures to supplement coal supplies to Austins and other firms in Birmingham area. If each firm practised rigid economy in consumption there was no reason why there should be complete stoppage.

Commenting on this, Mr. Lord said that the Ministry's decision to supplement supplies of coal was not known when the firm's statement was issued. The firm had not been notified officially yet.

If coal supplies were to be supplemented the firm hoped to start production again immediately after Christmas.

Fourteen thousand workers will be affected if a stoppage takes place, since the administrative staff will remain on duty.

Six hundred Farrington workers at the Leyland Motors foundry in Lancashire were told yesterday that they would have two weeks' enforced holiday over Christmas and New Year because coke supplies were exhausted.—Reuter.

THE WEATHER

A strong anticyclone remains over China and the neighbouring seas and another high pressure cell covers Japan. Pressure is relatively low over the southern region.

Today's forecast: Moderate or fresh NE winds onshore; strong NE offshore. Cloudy overnight, becoming fair during the day.

Yesterday's weather: Maximum: 63.5 deg. Fah. Minimum: 52.9 deg. Fah. Max. Rel. Humidity: 94 per cent. Sunshine: 38 hours. Rainfall: 0.25 inch.

Gromyko Stalls On Atom Policy

Lake Success, Dec. 20.
The Soviet delegate, M. Gromyko, today asked for another week's postponement in the show-down on the United States atomic energy plan in face of the apparent American determination to force an immediate vote in the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission.

After winning a four days' delay last Tuesday, M. Gromyko insisted today that additional study and consideration were absolutely necessary in view of the importance of the atomic problem.

The Russian move was bolstered by a sudden decision by Britain to oppose the United States move for a vote now on the American proposals.

An authoritative British source said the switch in British policy in the Commission was based on the fear that a "great catastrophe might result from forcing the issue now" and demanding an immediate Soviet verdict on the full American plan.

The source emphasized that Britain still subscribed to the principle of the American atomic proposal.

Canada came to Russia's aid as General McNaughton moved to send the American proposals to a committee for some working over which might whip them into a shape acceptable to Russia without changing the principles insisted on by the United States. He emphasized that Canada agreed with "the principles of the American plan, but felt they needed some tailoring."—United Press.

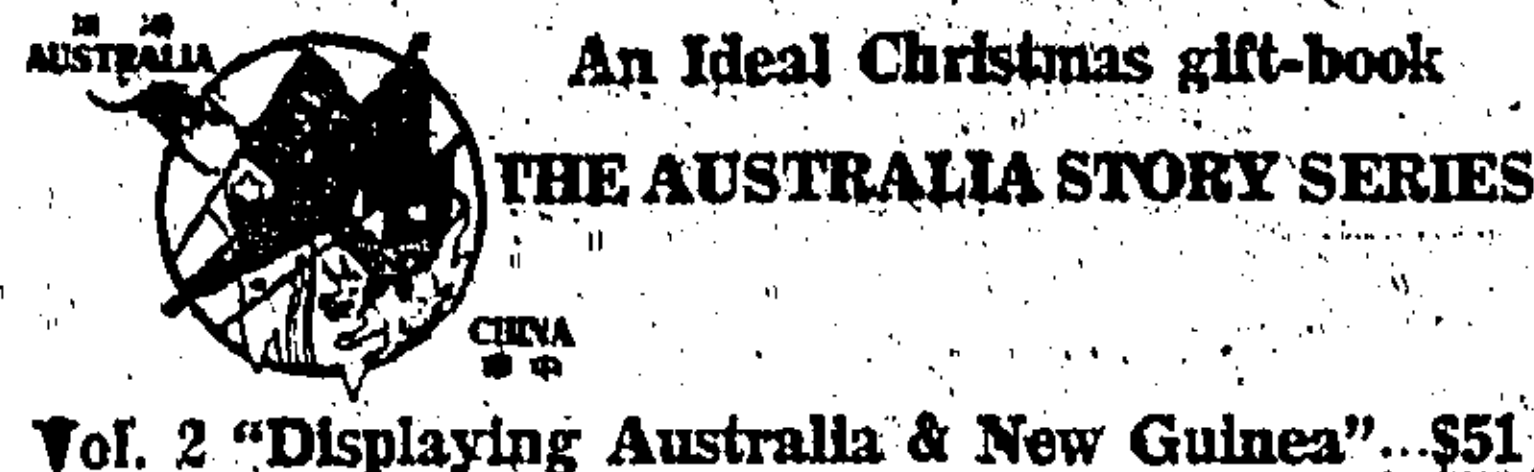
Rejected
New York, Dec. 21.
Voting first on the Soviet motion for adjournment the Commission rejected it by ten

votes to two, the minority consisting of Russia and Poland. The Polish resolution was rejected by nine votes to two, with one abstention; Canada abstained as a mark of conciliation to Poland. Minority votes were again cast by Russia and Poland.

The American proposals as amended by Canada were approved by ten votes to none, with one abstention—Poland, who abstained as a mark of conciliation in reply to Canada.

Mr. Gromyko had explained before the vote that he would not take part in the voting on the substance of the American proposal. "I am not taking part in this decision and that is why I am not voting yes or no," he said.—Reuter.

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FOR HER

\$10 Pkg.
1 Hair Oil, 4 oz.
1 Hair Tonic, 4 oz.
1 Dental Powder
2 Lipsticks
1 Rough
1 Boot Polish
4 Powder Puffs

\$20 Pkg.
1 Hair Oil, 4 oz.
1 Hair Tonic, 4 oz.
1 Shampoo, 4 oz.
1 Dental Powder
2 Lipsticks
4 Powder Puffs
2 cards Bobby Pins
1 Cue Dentifrice

\$30 Pkg.
1 Hair Oil, 4 oz.
1 Hair Tonic, 4 oz.
1 Talc Powder
1 Dental Powder
1 Cashmere Face Powder
2 Lipsticks
1 Rubber Water Bottle
1 Compact
1 pr. Garter
1 Cue Dentifrice

\$40 Pkg.
1 Rubber Water Bottle
1 Compact
1 Hair Oil, 4 oz.
1 Lotion, 4 oz.
1 Shampoo, 4 oz.
4 Lipsticks
1 Dental Powder
1 Cashmere Face Powder
1 Cue Dentifrice
2 Powder Puffs
1 Talc Powder

\$50 Pkg.
1 Plastic Raincoat or 1 1/2 yd.
Woolen Dress Material
1 Compact
2 Lipsticks
1 Hair Oil, 4 oz.
1 Hair Tonic, 4 oz.
1 Shampoo, 4 oz.
1 Dental Powder
1 Cue Dentifrice
1 Cashmere Face Powder

FOR HIM

\$10 Pkg.
1 Suspender
1 Dental Powder
1 Razor
1 Tooth Brush
1 pr. Arm Band
2 Boot Polish

\$20 Pkg.
1 Suspender
1 Hair Oil, 4 oz.
1 Hair Tonic, 4 oz.
1 Shaving Lotion, 4 oz.
1 Dental Powder
1 pr. Garter
1 Leather Belt

\$30 Pkg.
1 Hair Tonic, 12 oz.
1 Shampoo, 4 oz.
1 Shaving Lotion, 4 oz.
1 Cue Dentifrice
1 Suspender
1 Razor
1 pr. Garter
2 Boot Polish
2 Collar Pins

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News For Men Sans Shirts

By agreement with the Department of Supplies, Trade & Industry, a number of men's shirts are being made from Government material and will be available for sale to the public on and after today at a maximum retail price of \$12 per shirt.

The shirts will be sold by a large number of firms including the following:

Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co., Des Voeux Road, C. Lane, Crawford Ltd., Exchange Building, Dragon Seed Co., 37 Queen's Road, C. Mayfair Co., China Building, Wing On Co., 213 Des Voeux Road, C. Elite Styles, China Building, Lucille, 13 Queen's Road, C. Cheong Hing, 53 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Lily's, 53 Queen's Road, C. China Products Co., 24 Des Voeux Road, C. Tyeb & Co., Hong Kong Hotel Building, Shui Hing Co., 187/188 Des Voeux Road, C. Hee Hing Hong, 187 Des Voeux Road, C. Lee Shing, 185 Des Voeux Road, C. Sang Loong, 171 Des Voeux Road, C. China Emporium, 62A/68 Queen's Road, C. Keenosa Co., China Building, Vanco Co., 33 Queen's Road, C. Tung Sun, 48 Queen's Road, C. Jit Sing Co., 33A Queen's Road, C. Pak Hop, Gloucester Arcade, Yick Cheung, 165 Des Voeux Road, C. Wing Hing Leung Kee, 151 Des Voeux Road, C. Wai Yee, 302 Des Voeux Road, C. Man Sheung, 168 Queen's Road, C. Man Cheong, Gloucester Arcade, Hung Sheung, 174 Queen's Road, C. Ying Loong, 170 Queen's Road, C.

More Price Controls

Men's Shirts (distributed by the Department of Supplies, Trade and Industry) and motor vehicles are among additions to the Price Control schedule announced yesterday.

"Amstel" Beer Quarts Wholesale HK\$1.00, Maximum Retail Price for consumption off the premises \$2.20, Maximum Retail Price for consumption on the premises \$2.70 per bottle. Cigarettes: Ariston Turk \$3.50 per tin of 50.

Motor Vehicles: Motor Cars, "Cadillac" 62, 4-Door Sedan \$16,470.00 each; Singer Roadster 9 \$8,600.00 each; Singer Super 10 Saloon \$9,000.00 each. Motor Trucks: Bedford Model MLZ 2-3 Ton Chassis without Cab \$8,945.00 each. Shirts, (marked STI) \$12.00 each.

The following is deleted from the schedule:— 220 Watt Electric Lamp Bulbs, \$4.50 each, and is substituted by 200 Watt Bulbs \$4.50 each.

A Christmas Choral Recital will take place at the Hop Yat Church, Bonham Road, this evening at 7.30 p.m.

MILK FOR SICK POWs WAS PILFERED BY JAP NCOs

Evidence regarding the pilfering of milk for sick POWs and of Red Cross parcels by the Japanese was given by two Chinese witnesses at yesterday's hearing of the War Crimes Trial of Colonel Tokunaga and four other POW Camp officers.

Testimony was also given that recaptured escaping POWs who had been executed were listed as "escaped" on the instructions of Tokunaga. Mak said that he did not know the families and friends of POWs were prohibited from sending in certain articles.

The next witness, Eugene Mak, an overseer employed at Kai Tak Airfield, said that he was released from Shamshipo Camp on his signing a document promising not to escape from the Colony after release. He was then employed as a typist at POW Headquarters. At the same time, he was acting as a BAAG agent.

Red Cross Parcels

In 1943 Red Cross parcels arrived in Hong Kong and these were stored at Gun Club Hill. The quartermaster, a Japanese named Abe, and a Japanese paymaster were in charge of the parcels. The parcels should have been distributed to POWs, but witness said that he found out from the guards that only a small percentage were being given. The rest were taken by high ranking Japanese officers such as Tokunaga, Capt. Kato, Nilmori and Abe. In some cases, the parcels were sold secretly.

Mak said that he ascertained from the amahs when they came to collect their pay, that there were a large number of tinmed goods at Tokunaga's house. On one occasion in 1943, when Red Cross parcels had arrived, he was asked by Nilmori, Tanaka and Capt. Kato to type out six copies of a receipt for Red Cross parcels for signature by a certain British officer. He heard later that only 50 per cent of the parcels set forth in the receipt actually reached the hands of POWs, the other 50 per cent being taken away by Tokunaga and some of the Japanese staff. This was known to everybody at the time.

Most of the cigarettes from Red Cross parcels were sold to street hawkers. Mak said that he saw hawkers selling contents of the parcels along the route from Camp to the ferry. Red Cross parcels were also in a shop at the corner of Nathan and Austin Roads, Kowloon. The shop was opened by Abe and Nilmori, but Tokunaga was behind it. Mak said that the Japanese guards informed him that Tokunaga took a lot of Red Cross parcels to the shop in Nathan Road.

POWs Mail

Mak also said that mail which arrived for POWs had to be censored by the interpreters before being passed on to POWs. In 1944 and 1945, large quantities of mail arrived at regular intervals and as the interpreters were unable to cope with the incoming mail it accumulated. Instructions were issued by Tokunaga to Nilmori, through Tanaka, that all letters which contained more than 50 words were to be destroyed and burnt. As regards outgoing mail, only 25 words per letter were allowed. The order to destroy and burn mail was obeyed. Two days before the surrender, six wooden trunks containing mail were burnt.

Europeans Charged In Kowloon Court

A half-dozen European defendants appeared before the Magistrate, Mr. W. H. Latimer, at Kowloon Court yesterday charged with a variety of offences.

Pte. Shelley, of 3 Commando Brigade H.Q., was ordered to pay \$20 compensation and bound over in a sum of \$100 to keep the peace for six months when he appeared on a charge of having assaulted a room-boy of the Arlington Hotel.

Complainant, Le, Lin-yan, room-boy, was walking along Mody Road, it was stated, when Shelley came up to him and asked him to come to the room. Shelley did not immediately reply, but punched him on the jaw, knocking him unconscious.

M. N. Akrenova, of 12, Granville Road, was charged with being drunk and disorderly outside Glacie's Cafe, in Nathan Road on Friday night.

Sub-insp. Cecil Askew stated that defendant was shouting and crying and divesting herself of her clothing. She was seen by several policemen before being arrested. It was her third offence of a similar nature.

Sentence was imposed of two weeks' simple imprisonment.

Complainant charged When Leonardo Mercario Lopez, prison warder at Stanley Gaol, appeared on remand before the Magistrate on a charge of obtaining clothing and money by false pretences, complainant in the case, Mr. K. A. Wong, was also charged with obtaining clothing and money by false pretences. Both were charged with obtaining clothing and money by false pretences. Both were charged with obtaining clothing and money by false pretences.

MUTINY TRIAL

Singapore, Dec. 20.

The trial for mutiny of seven Indian other ranks of the Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery is expected to begin here on Dec. 27.

The men are charged with mutinously attacking and murdering Captain Williams, their Commanding Officer, and four British NCOs in March, 1942. The two victims were killed in their beds shortly before the Japanese took over the island.—Reuter.

by the guards, together with other documents.

In addition to his other duties, Tanaka was also adjutant to Tokunaga. When POWs were recaptured after trying to escape, they were interrogated by Tokunaga, Tanaka and Nilmori. When interrogations were carried out in the room next to that occupied by him, Mak said he could hear the beatings and screaming.

Most of the interrogations were carried out at the residence of Tanaka at No. 107 Argyle Street. Mak said that he heard from the amahs on a few occasions that POWs were taken to the basement of No. 107 Argyle Street.

"Died From Malaria"

Mak said that Pte. Prata, H.K.V.D.C. was brought to the Forfar Street Headquarters and later taken to Tanaka's residence. Prata was an orderly at the Argyle Street Camp. A few days after Prata had been taken away, Mak said he was asked to strike out Prata's name from the nominal roll of POWs and to show Prata as having died from malaria.

Mak said that he was in charge of nominal rolls of POWs and that he entered thereon all casualties. Although POWs who had escaped, were executed on recapture, Mak said instructions were issued by Tokunaga that the word "escaped" should be entered against the name of the POW and not the word "executed." Mak said that in consequence of a circular from Tokyo, asking for information about escaped POWs, the Japanese came to an arrangement among themselves and issued a monthly circular, which was sent to Tokyo.

About a week before the surrender, one of the Japanese clerks asked witness to cross out the word "escaped" on nominal rolls and substitute therefor the word "executed."

Hearing was then adjourned till 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Wedding Snaith-Booker

Miss Beryl June Booker, daughter of Mr. F.E.E. Booker, and Mr. Arthur Linton Snaith were married at St. John's Cathedral yesterday morning.

The ceremony was conducted by Canon Copley Moyle and the bride was given away by her father, Mr. Philip Snaith, the bridegroom's brother, acted as best man. The bride wore a two-piece suit of navy blue and ice blue with accessories to match. There were no bridesmaids.

A reception was held in the evening in the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank building.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Arrivals at the Peninsula Hotel include L. C. F. Bellamy, Col. E. C. Frederick and Captain C. S. Hooper, M.M.

Departures from the Peninsula Hotel include Mr. and Mrs. L. Bielli, R. J. Masonberry, C. E. Bieush and M. A. Smith.

Cocoanut oil, rubber, pale crepe and smoked sheets have been deleted from the schedule of prohibited exports.

Aberdeen Industrial School

The Aberdeen Industrial School, which was promoted by prominent leaders of the Chinese community and which, in pre-war days, accommodated over 400 students, almost all from poor families, has survived the war, thanks to the help of Chinese philanthropists and the efforts of its managers, the Salesian Fathers.

It now has 380 students, a good many of whom receive their education and training free while some of them only pay a small fee. Boarding and lodging, including clothes, books, etc. are supplied by the School.

As before, it is receiving an annual subsidy from the Government and assistance from the General Chinese Charity Fund, and Mr. An Boon Haw, well-known Chinese philanthropist, who supported some 50 boys at the School during the occupation, is continuing his support by giving \$700-\$800 to the School each month.

Notwithstanding all this, the School Committee, of which the Hon. S.C.A. is Chairman, find it necessary to raise additional funds not only to maintain the School properly but also to repair the School premises and equipment, which were badly damaged during the occupation; hence flag day is being held tomorrow. War support from the general public is hoped for.

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For the convenience of CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS, the HOURS of BUSINESS of the undermentioned stores will be as follows:—

23rd December, 1946 From 10 a.m.

27th December, 1946 to 7 p.m.

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2. Clear Chicken Soup with Pie
3. Fried Garoupa, sauce Tartare
4. Roast Turkey—Cranberry sauce
5. Xmas Pudding with sauce
6. Vanilla Fruit Sundae
7. Coffee

Complete assortment of Wine, Liqueurs and Beer. We serve drinks with or without meals any time during the day.

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NOTICE: Owing to the limited capacity of our premises, we request to make reservations as early as possible, either personally or by PHONE 50559.

MR. JONES UNDER FIRE Brooke Case Accusations In Commons Liberty Of The Subject

London, Dec. 20.

"The blame for all this muddle should rest fairly and squarely upon the Colonial Secretary, and it is not surprising because he spent most of his time stirring up trouble in the colonies," said Sir Ian Fraser, (Cons.) referring in the House of Commons today to the question of the ban on Mr. Anthony Vyner Brooke's entry into Sarawak. "When you turn a man from poacher to gamekeeper it is not always a success," Sir Ian continued.

Colonel Oliver Stanley, Conservative, and former Colonial Secretary, said this was a matter which affected the liberty of the subject and the House might be setting a precedent which might have a most disastrous effect upon the colonial system for the future. Had this principle been applied vigorously before the war, quite a number of people who were today experts in colonial matters might never have been allowed to see the colonies at all.

Referring to the statement that Mr. Brooke had been refused entry into Malaya, Colonel Stanley said no one was going to say he was a "young pretender" here. He also asked, referring to another report that Mr. Brooke was kept incommunicado in Hong Kong and not allowed to communicate with the press, under what law this was enforced.

Colonel Stanley said he did not challenge the legality of the refusal of entry to Sarawak but its justice and wisdom. If a grave accusation was made, Mr. Brooke should be put on trial before a jury of his countrymen.

"Let this charge be either made today and the proper consequences taken through law officers of the Crown, or let it be withdrawn," he declared.

Colonel Stanley said Mr. Brooke believed the people of Sarawak would be better off under the old regime than the new one and that he was by a perfectly constitutional means, trying to get the present Government to change their decision.

He asked how there could be a great threat to security if, as the Colonial Secretary said yesterday, Mr. Brooke's views represented only a small unrepresentative minority of the people of Sarawak. The inference

fact of this refusal cast doubt upon the whole basis on which the Opposition agreed to negotiations on Sarawak. If the Government dared not allow Mr. Brooke to go to Sarawak he was doubtful whether the Opposition had learned the truth.

It was a great mistake for the Government to give the impression that they were afraid of popular opinion being manifested in Mr. Brooke's favour and that what they had assured the House on many occasions might be untrue. Colonel Stanley pleaded with the Minister to reverse his decision.

Replying to the debate, Mr. Creech Jones, the Colonial Secretary, repudiated "the most malicious and libelous insinuations" of Sir Ian Fraser that he had been making trouble in the Colonies and was a poacher turned game keeper. He had consistently all his life, fought for justice in the colonial administration on behalf of the native people and done his best to build up the standards of living and better economic opportunities and wider political freedom for the people concerned.

Labour M.P. Protests
Labour member Mr. H. Delaney interrupted there to say he wished to make it perfectly clear that Mr. Creech Jones was absolutely wrong in thinking that the Conservatives were alone in protesting at the exclusion of Mr. Brooke from Sarawak. There were plenty of Labour members who protested equally strongly, he added.

Mr. Creech Jones, continuing, said the Government did not ask for the cession of Sarawak. It was Colonel Stanley, when he was the Minister, who wished that foreign jurisdiction should be made to operate in this particular colony. He said the cession was decided constitutionally in Sarawak itself.

It was irrelevant for members to argue that because certain Europeans took part in the proceedings of the courts in Sarawak that the proceedings should have been set on one side. If they had been set on one side the Government would have been charged with not using the proper constitutional methods to ascertain decision.

It was recognised in Sarawak that the decision should stand and the matter had never been seriously challenged in this Parliament.

Mr. Creech Jones said that at time of the cession, the Brooke family had their opportunity of putting their view to the people of Sarawak. Indeed a member of the Brooke family did go to Sarawak before the Councils took their final decision. They were permitted freely to influence the people in their opinion and if the decision went against them it was not their fault.

Risk Of Violence
If agitation and propaganda were pursued, there was a risk of violence, and lawlessness would undoubtedly result.

The Government could not get lightly on one side the advice of

KURDS FLEE IRAN

Baghdad, Dec. 20.

Ahmed Taha, the Army Chief of the "Kurd Republic" in Iran, and 100 Kurd families, crossed into Iraq with armoured cars and various firearms and surrendered to the Iraq Army and police today.

Abdul Rahman Dabibi, the Deputy Leader of the Democratic Party of the Kurd Republic, and seven other prominent Kurds who previously surrendered to the Iraq police, are now detained in Police Headquarters at Baghdad. — Reuter.

the Governor of the territory. The Governor-General was of the same view as the Governor, that the entry of Anthony Brooke would stimulate a great deal of difficulty which in the long run would probably result in disturbances and possibly violence. These were inflammable primitive people.

Mr. Creech Jones said that Mr. Brooke might go to Sarawak with the object of deposing His Majesty from sovereignty and re-imposing the rajah. His presence there was likely to lead to disorder and with the inflammatory population it was a very grave risk for a government to take. With people who could be easily misled this action was likely to prove one of a seditious character.

Nothing Illegal

Colonel Stanley: "Why 'one of a seditious character'? Is there any charge against Brooke that he wanted to go anything except what is constitutional? Mr. Jones talked about 'deposing the sovereign.' Is that an allegation that Mr. Brooke wants to subvert the constitution of this country? In view of what has been said today, many of us will say the decision (the cession of Sarawak) was wrong and it would be better for Parliament to reverse it. But surely there is nothing illegal about that."

Mr. Creech Jones replied that it was one thing to carry on agitation of this kind in this country, and another to inflame a primitive population into opposition to the established order in Sarawak. If it was a debatable thing that the constitution should be changed, so far as Sarawak was concerned, then the place for that agitation was in this country.

It was not a right and a fit thing that, when a decision had been constitutionally arrived at and generally accepted by the people of Sarawak, the King's jurisdiction should be questioned and that an agitation should start which must inevitably lead to violence.

Mr. Creech Jones said no one knew the exact date that Brooke was likely to go and no decision could have been made until the Colonial office was informed.

He said he had got his first knowledge of Brooke's departure from a newspaper and there was no prior indication that he was leaving. If a decision had been taken at that point by the Governor of Sarawak, Brooke would certainly have been informed but he disappeared and the Government could not act before he left.

Mr. Creech Jones said that the fundamental issue was that Brooke was pretender to the throne. If he was an alien no one would suggest he should be allowed in Sarawak to subvert His Majesty's authority. The fact that he was British increased the responsibility of his activities.

"Irresponsible"
"This irresponsible person, it is perfectly clear from his recent history in the Government of Sarawak, has been deposed three times from the job he was doing."

Mr. Creech Jones added that the Government had very definite responsibility to the Sarawak people and it was because of Brooke's presumptions

Germany Wouldn't Sign

Hamburg, Dec. 20.

The 61-year-old old Premier of Schleswig Holstein, Dr. Theodor Steltzer, in a statement today, declared that Germany will never sign a peace treaty with the Allies which does not guarantee the return of her lost Eastern territories at present occupied by Poland.

No German statesman could be found who would sign any treaty recognising the permanent loss of the Eastern territories without which Germany would never be able to feed herself, Dr. Steltzer said.

"Germany's rich Eastern acres upon which her future life and economy depends, are being so misused by the new Polish occupants that once prosperous farmlands are now being turned into wasteland," he said.

"It is the duty of the Allies to cancel the Polish trusteeship of the eastern territories. If the Allies intend to sever those territories from Germany for all time they have got to renounce the possibility of any German peace treaty being signed," said the Premier.

Referring to Britain's spending of £80,000,000 yearly for the upkeep of the British zone, Dr. Steltzer stated that the Germans have not yet had details of the bill showing the values of German exports such as coal and timber which were being deducted to pay for the food supplies.

He declared: "It should not be forgotten that England alone received the value of about £250,000,000 through the liquidation of Germany's foreign assets which were taken as reparations."

"This alone would pay for Germany's food bill for three years." — Reuter.

ERNIE TO SEE THE KING

London, Dec. 20.

Mr. Ernest Bevin will call on the King at Buckingham Palace tomorrow to report on his return trip to New York. It was learned authoritatively tonight.

The Foreign Secretary will spend the rest of the day working on the speech which he will deliver over the BBC on Sunday evening.

This will be the first full public account of the recent session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, which resulted in agreement on the text of the peace treaties with Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania and Finland. — Reuter.

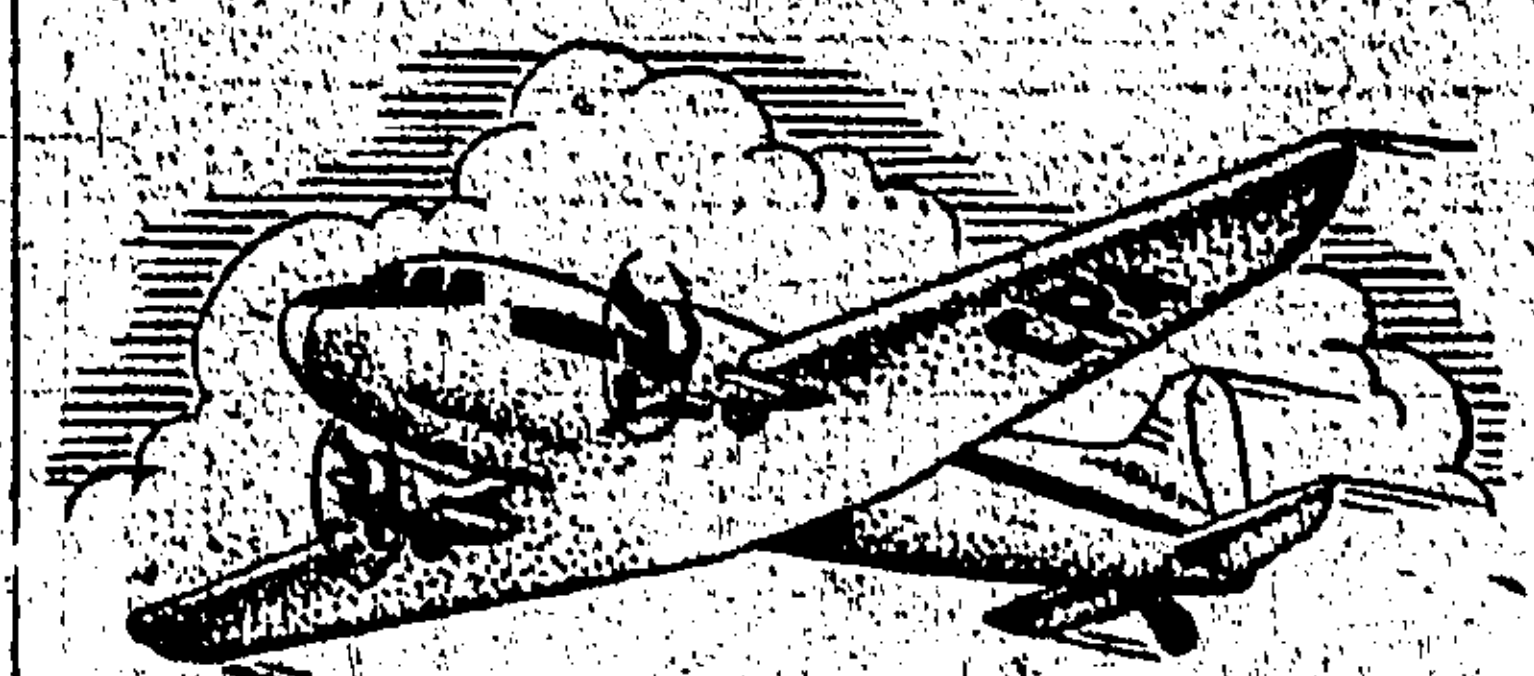
New York, Dec. 20.

The United States Department announced tonight that Mr. Robert Murphy, United States adviser to American Occupation Forces in Germany, has been named American Deputy for preliminary discussion of the German peace treaty in London on January 14.

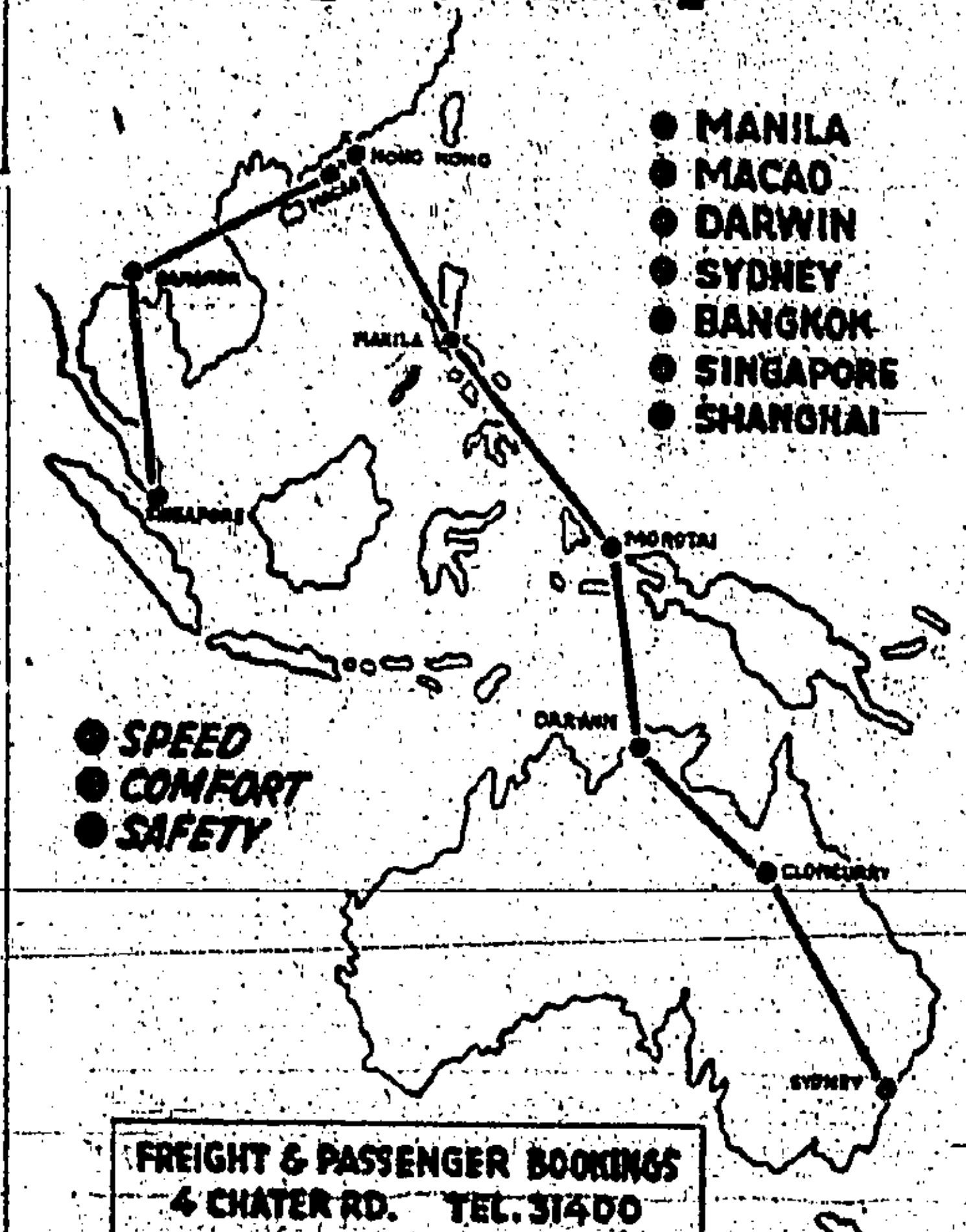
Mr. Murphy holds an ambassador's rank. — Reuter.

that he intended to extend his authority in Sarawak and his agitation in order to beset the authority of His Majesty, that he should not be allowed into the country.

The debate then ended. — Reuter.



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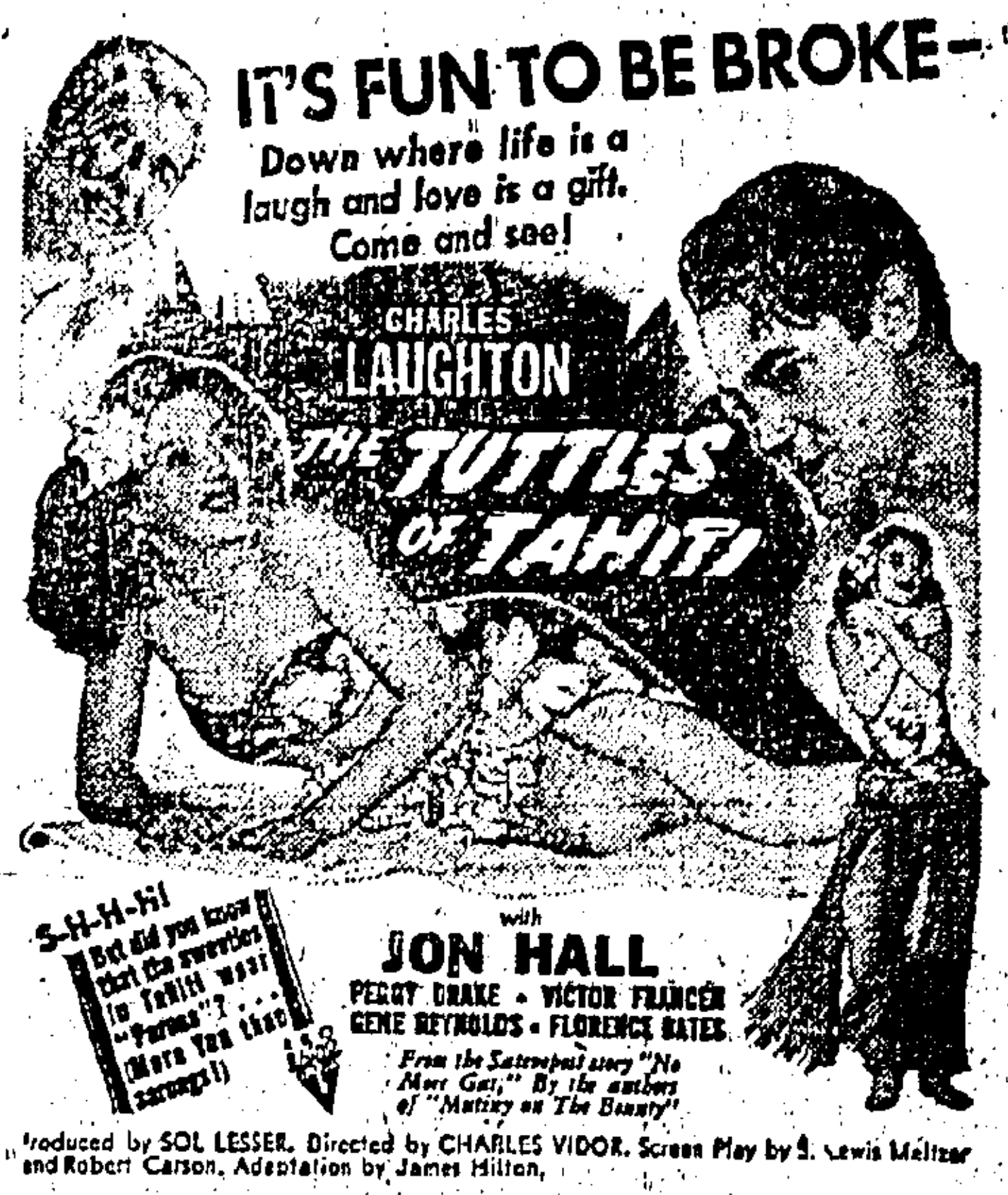
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SPECIAL MORNING SHOW AT 12.30 p.m.
"WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?"
A 20th-Century Fox Super Technicolor picture

FASCISM IN BRITAIN CHARGED BY M.P.'s

London, Dec. 20.

Mass Trial In British Zone

Hamburg, Dec. 20.

Twenty-seven thousand Germans interned in camps in the British Zone will be put on trial at once for having been members of criminal organisations under a British Military Government order quoted by the British News Service in Germany today.

They will be tried by German courts and the Military Government desire that the trials shall be completed within one year, the order said. The 27,000 accused are alleged to have been members of Nazi organisations declared to be criminal by the Nuremberg International Tribunal on September 30.

These were the SS, Gestapo and Security Police. The Tribunal acquitted the Reich Cabinet, SA and German High Command.

Britain thus becomes the first of the four occupying powers to give effect to the Nuremberg judgment.—Reuter.

It may be that there are British Fascists who have firearms and in circumstances may resort to their use, said Mr. G. H. Oliver, the Under Secretary to the Home Office, in the House of Commons today when replying to a debate initiated by a Labour member about "the multifarious activities" of Sir Oswald Mosley the ex-leader of the British Union of Fascists.

Mr. Oliver added appeals to surrender unlicensed firearms made last February led to the handing over of almost 80,000 such weapons and there was no reason to think large quantities were getting into unauthorised hands.

The Home Secretary, Mr. Chuter Ede, would have asked Parliament for further powers if he had felt he had not the necessary powers to deal with the Fascist situation already, he said.

"If the Government of the day handles the economic, political and social problems of the day, Fascism is dead—for all time," he said.

Considering that there were millions of people in industry and in the fighting services, there might be few Fascists, but that did not constitute a menace.

"We must not forget this is a Democracy and criticism of the institution of this country and the political views are the basis of Democracy."

It was quite erroneous to believe that because there were criticisms and meetings in small meeting rooms, a Fascist menace was growing so much that something should be done by the Home Office.

Fascist Meetings

Mr. H. L. Austin, the Labour member who asked the questions, said he could not understand why the police were not empowered to enter premises where Fascist meetings were held, where there were bound to be branches of the party.

"Why has not the Home Secretary asked for additional power? Is he satisfied that there has not been a resurgence of Fascist activity in the last year?"

"Is he satisfied that Sir Oswald Mosley and all his supporters have been converted to a Democratic viewpoint?"

Mr. Austin asserted that there was an "undesirable element" in the British zone.

New Type Armoured Division

Washington, Dec. 20.

Large-scale reorganization of the United States Army's infantry and armoured divisions to make them "triple-barreled" and to increase their firepower threefold was announced tonight by the War Department.

General Devers, Commander of United States Ground Forces, said: "Atomic weapons will not alter the nature of warfare to such an extent that the need for mobile and hard-hitting divisions will be diminished."

Announcing that the size of divisions would be increased by 3,000 to recruit 18,000 men, he added: "United States Army divisions will henceforth be unparalleled fighting machines."

"We have tripled the number of artillery weapons and more than tripled our firepower. They will not merely be amphibious—they will be 'triple-barreled', capable of swift-mechanized movement by land, sea or air."

General Devers said the number of tanks for an infantry division will be doubled, any anti-tank companies eliminated.—Reuter.

Parliament later adjourned for the Christmas recess until January 21.—Reuter.

Frost-Bite Deaths In Refugee Train

Herford, Westphalia, Dec. 20.

Four German refugees have died and another 106 were severely affected by frost-bite during a five day journey in an unheated train from the area of Eastern Germany now incorporated into Poland, to the frontier of the British zone, British Military Government officials stated today.

Fifteen of the refugees were so severely affected by frost-bite that the amputation of limbs was found to be immediately necessary, the officials added. It is expected that 30 other cases will call for amputations in the next few days.

The refugees were the latest arrivals under "Operation Swallow"—the scheme whereby 1,500,000 refugees from the new Polish area are to be accepted in the British zone.

The officials said that instructions had been given that no further refugee trains from Poland were to be admitted until heating had been provided in trains.—Reuter.

Anders Accused By Poland

London, Dec. 20.

A Polish official statement in Warsaw yesterday that concrete evidence of contact made between Wladyslaw Anders, former commander of Polish forces in Italy, and the Polish Underground, was sent to Britain as long ago as November, 1945, was denied this morning by the Foreign Office.

The Polish statement was made to foreign correspondents in Warsaw who were shown documents purporting to establish the appointment and to relate instructions of Colonel Jan Azapecki, as Chief of the Secret Home Army.

The documents, which will be used at the forthcoming trial of Colonel Azapecki, also purport to establish "irrefutable evidence" of contact with General Anders and of the issue to the Home Army of anti-Soviet instructions.

A British official spokesman said today that though repeated allegations of contact between General Anders and the Polish Underground had been made by the Polish Government, no specific evidence had so far been produced, nor had the documents shown to foreign correspondents in Warsaw been brought to the notice of the British Government.—Reuter.

PEACE NOT YET SECURED

Washington, Dec. 20. President Truman told the nation's wounded war veterans today that so far the United States has neither achieved nor secured "the peace for which you fought."

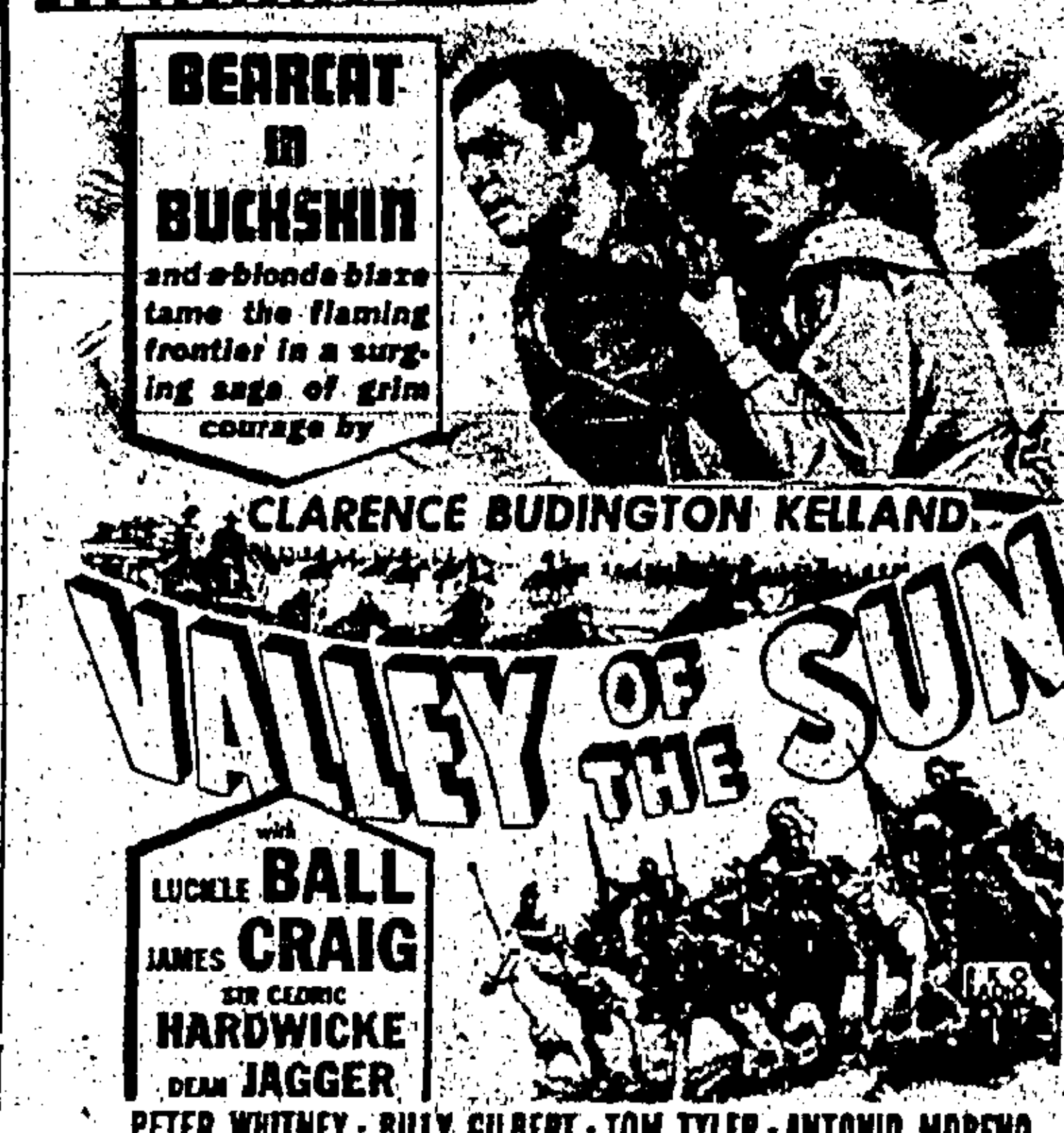
"But," he said, "as we enter this holiday season, we find a greater hope for believing that peace can be won by patient cooperation between men and women everywhere, working together in unity, seeking to establish mutual understanding and justice in this world."

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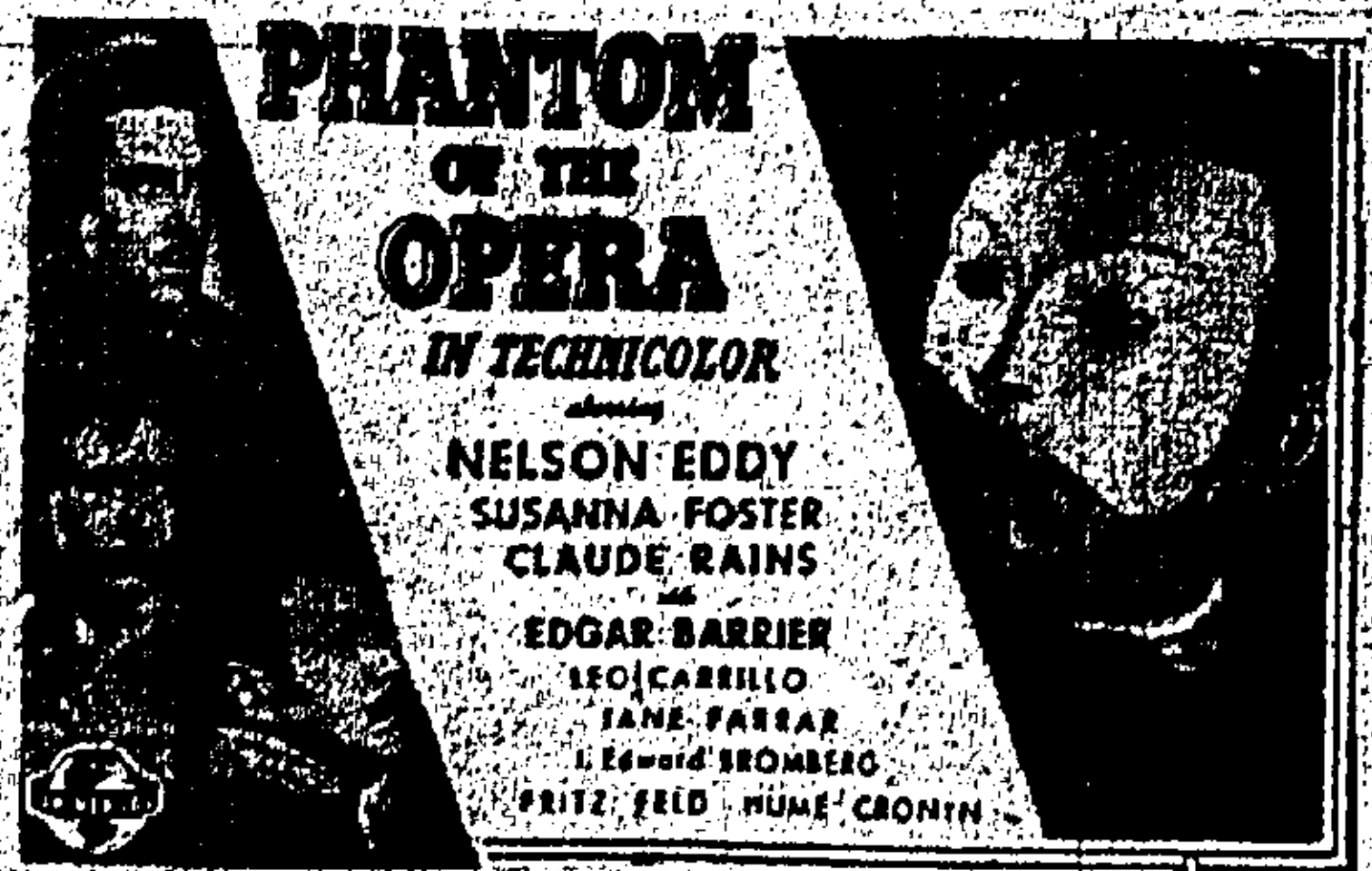
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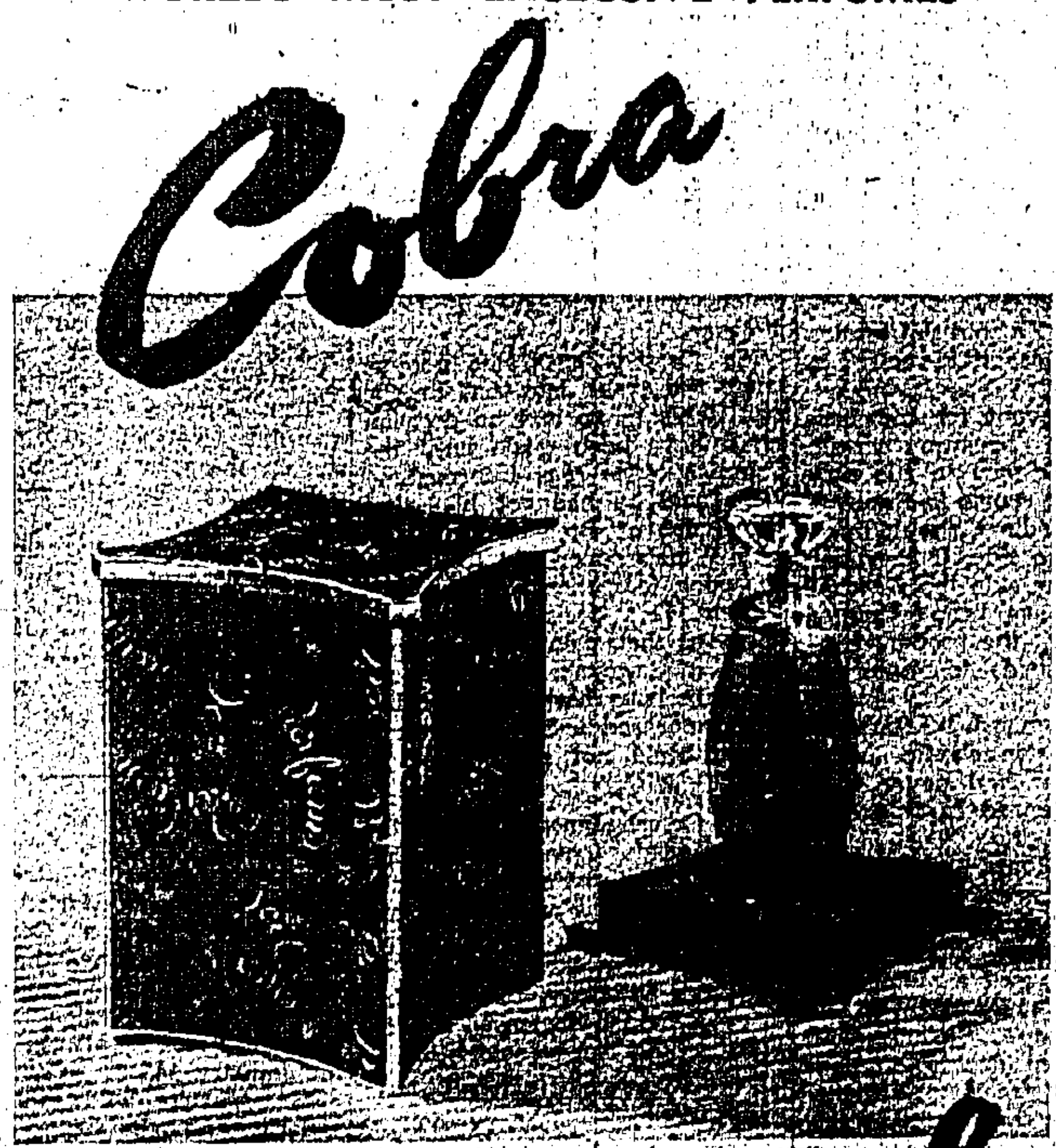
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ARRIVALS FROM

"NEWCHWANG" Singapore 25th Dec.
"KWEIYANG" Bangkok, Saigon & Swatow 25th Dec.
"ANHUI" Singapore & Hoihow 1st Jan.

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"FATSHAN" Sails 10 a.m. 24th Dec.
Arrives 10.30 a.m. 26th Dec.
Sails 1 a.m. 29th Dec.
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"MENECLAUS"	early Jan. —do—

Sailing	For
"GLENSTRAE"	23rd Dec. L'pool & Glasgow via Straits

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"YOCHOW"	early Jan. Australia
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"YOCHOW"	2nd week Jan. Sydney, Melbourne.

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S.S. "BENLEDI" Late Dec.
S.S. "TREWOLAS" (Ben Line Berth) 10th Jan.

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Washington, Dec. 21.

Even with the war over, the big new passenger liners this country plans to add to its merchant fleet still will be built with an eye to any military eventuality.

The 1936 Merchant Ship Act requires the Maritime Commission to outline specific defence standards that must be incorporated in all vessels built with the aid of federal subsidies.

These standards before the war related principally to speed and such construction features as reinforcements to permit heavy gun mounts.

Added to these during the war were requirements for de-gaussing equipment—the anti-magnetic mine device—quarters for gun crews, ammunition handling rooms and magazines, hoists and various torpedo defences.

These now have been discarded in a return to virtual pre-war standards.

But a Maritime Commission spokesman emphasised that nothing will be omitted that "is fundamentally required for the future."

Into this category fall certain basic design characteristics such as compartmentation, stability, strengthening and speed capacity.

New Liners

At present, relatively little private shipbuilding is being carried on due chiefly to the Government's economy and anti-inflation programme. The Commission still hopes, however, to get a White House go-ahead for a number of big, fast passenger liners for the Mediterranean, South America and Pacific trades. These ships would be built with the aid of federal subsidies for operation by private firms.

The subsidy programme is predicated on three principles: (1) The difference in cost between building a ship in an American shipyard and a foreign shipyard. (Because foreign costs are much lower, the Government feels the nation's shipbuilding industry

should be kept alive as a national defence measure, if for no other reason.)

(2) The cost of the extra defence features.

(3) To encourage the building of modern and efficient ships for the American merchant marine. — Associated Press.

PACIFIC ROUTE WINDS UP

Washington, Dec. 20.

The U.S. Army Air Forces today announced that the United Air Lines will terminate operations across the Pacific on January 16. Operating for more than four years under a contract with the Army Air Transport Command, United Airlines flew more than 55,000,000 miles and transported approximately 156,000 military passengers.—United Press.

LONDON DISCOUNT RATES

London, Dec. 20.
Day to Day Loan 1/4, Short Money 1/4 to 1/2, Bank Bills, 3 Months 1/4, 6 Months 1/2, 9 Months 1/2 to 1 1/2, Fine Trade Bills, 3 Months 1/4 to 1 1/2, 6 Months 1/2 to 2 1/2, Treasury Bills, 3 Months 1/4 to 1/2, 6 Months 1/2 to 1 1/2, 9 Months 1/2 to 1 1/2, 12 Months 1/2 to 1 1/2.

BOMBAY SILVER GOLD

Bombay, Dec. 20.
Silver, Ready 112 Rupees, 04 Annas per 100 tolas, Forward (Jan. 7 settlement) 117, 12, (March 7 settlement) 118, 12, (May 7 settlement) 119, 12, (July 7 settlement) 120, 12, (Sept. 7 settlement) 121, 12, (Nov. 7 settlement) 122, 12, (Dec. 7 settlement) 123, 12, (Jan. 8 settlement) 124, 12, (Feb. 8 settlement) 125, 12, (Mar. 8 settlement) 126, 12, (Apr. 8 settlement) 127, 12, (May 8 settlement) 128, 12, (Jun. 8 settlement) 129, 12, (Jul. 8 settlement) 130, 12, (Aug. 8 settlement) 131, 12, (Sep. 8 settlement) 132, 12, (Oct. 8 settlement) 133, 12, (Nov. 8 settlement) 134, 12, (Dec. 8 settlement) 135, 12, (Jan. 9 settlement) 136, 12, (Feb. 9 settlement) 137, 12, (Mar. 9 settlement) 138, 12, (Apr. 9 settlement) 139, 12, (May 9 settlement) 140, 12, (Jun. 9 settlement) 141, 12, (Jul. 9 settlement) 142, 12, (Aug. 9 settlement) 143, 12, (Sep. 9 settlement) 144, 12, (Oct. 9 settlement) 145, 12, (Nov. 9 settlement) 146, 12, (Dec. 9 settlement) 147, 12, (Jan. 10 settlement) 148, 12, (Feb. 10 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Ideal for X'mas Gifts - -
CHY LOONG'S SPECIAL CRYSTALLIZED
GINGER
In Beautiful Tins
1-lb \$8.00
1/2-lb \$5.00
CHINA TEA CO., David House.

THE HONG KONG SUNDAY HERALD

HONG KONG, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1946.

PORTRAITS
OF
DISTINCTION

FRANCIS WU'S STUDIO
GLOUCESTER ARCADE

**SORRY, NO HOME
SOCCER RESULTS**
Owing to technical difficulties, no Home Soccer results reached Hong Kong last night. A special cable has been sent to London and they are expected in this morning.

**MCC
Total Of
395**

Newcastle, Dec. 21.
The Maryleboners occupied the wicket all day against the New South Wales Country Eleven here and compiled a total of 395.

After a slow start—only 79 runs scored for the loss of the opening pair before lunch—the rate of scoring speeded up and by the tea-interval 260 runs were on the board.

This was mainly due to the brilliant three-wicket stand between Walker, Hammond, and Laurie Fishlock, which put on 195, both batsmen passing the hundred. Hammond quickly overhauled his partner and he was in a reckless mood when he was stumped with 142 to his credit. He had batted only 113 minutes, hitting 20 fours and one six.

Fishlock was clean bowled at 120, after which, with the batsmen all going for quick runs. Only Edrich stood up to the attack. He was not out for 55, which was scored in 68 minutes and included nine fours.

Generally the Country Eleven fielded well.—Reuter.

WELTERWEIGHT TITLE

New York, Dec. 21.
Ray "Sugar" Robinson today wore the welterweight boxing crown after waiting five years to get it after defeating Tommy Bell at Madison Square to fill the championship spot vacated by Marly Servo.

Robinson, who had been called the "uncrowned king of welterweights" for years, made good on his first title bout but had to take a seven-count knockdown in the fourth round at the hands of the game but over-matched Bell.

The little-known contender fought Robinson on even terms for the first ten rounds but the clever Robinson finally dropped Bell for a count of eight in the eleventh round and then pummeled his opponent at will thereafter.—United Press.

ARMY TEAM

The following players will represent the ARMY against Navy on Dec. 23 & 24—

Maj. Furlong—(42 Cdo.) Maj. Jowers—(45 Cdo.) Maj. Rowley—(L. F.) Capt. Gourlay—(45 Cdo.) Capt. Williams—(42 Cdo.) Capt. Cliffe—(44 Cdo.) Lieut. Pickering—(42 Cdo.) Lieut. Chambers—(R.E. L.F.) Lieut. Phelps—(Forces Educ Centre.) Sgm. Geldard—(Spec Wireless Centre.) Sgm. Kennedy—(Spec Wireless Centre.) Reserves: Marine Shadwell—3 Cdo Bde, Capt. Pearn—42 Cdo.

SOUTH CHINA BEAT 45 CDO 4-NIL

South China continued in their challenging position for League honours when they beat 45 Commando by four clear goals at Causeway Bay yesterday, but they were fully extended in the first half and with better shooting and steadiness in front of goal, the Commandos might have been in the lead.

Travancore avenged their Shield defeat at the hands of Club by winning by the odd goal in five and to register their first win of the season. 42 Commandos, taking over 1/5 fixtures, did not turn out against Navy.

45 Cdo. v South China

Attacking hard during the first fifteen minutes play, 45 Commando flattered to deceive in their match with South China at Causeway Bay yesterday, and were beaten decisively by four clear goals—very one was a "gem."

Didcott missed an early opportunity for the Cdos, over-running the ball following a breakaway, soon afterwards Tsang Chung Wan raced across the goal to stop Neale at the expense of a fruitless corner. Play swung rapidly from end to end and the big crowd were being treated to plenty of thrills.

Lee Shek-yau was causing the Commando defence several anxious moments with his spectacular footwork that has earned him the reputation of being one of the cleverest dribblers in the league. Once he hit the ball into the side netting and it was from his pass that Chow Man-chi shot inches wide. On the first occasion that he had managed to elude the watchful Deal, Tse Kam-racced right through the opposition only to shoot over the bar.

A faulty clearance by Wong Wai-kay and Didcott almost lobbed the ball into goal before the custodian could return to his charge. Neale shot wildly over the bar when well placed and the Servicemen had only themselves to blame that they weren't in the lead at this stage of the game.

Taylor came into the picture, diving at the feet of the opposing forwards and earning applause with a succession of well timed high saves. Following one of Lo Wai-kuen's dexterous throw-ins, Lee Shek-yau hit the upright with a snap effort. With an open goal before him, Chow Man-chi put the ball on the wrong side of the post; the inside left then forced Taylor to make a brilliant save with another hard drive and, finally, he made no mistake with a third shot that gave the goalie no chance. South China just about deserved this 'single-goal' half-time lead.

Taylor returned a shot from Chan Tak fai round the post in the first China attack after the resumption. The Commando forward line spoilt good approach work by woefully weak finishing; the centre-forward and wingers in particular being to blame.

Terrific Drive
Chow Man-chi hit the cross-bar with a terrific drive that left Taylor standing but the eager South China forwards were not to be thwarted for long and it came as no surprise when they increased the lead.

R.A.F. v Club Seniors

Playing an all-round better game in every department, R.A.F. decisively overwhelmed the Club Seniors in a First Division match on the latter's ground yesterday by five goals to one, after leading two clear goals at the interval.

R.A.F. introduced four new comers in Jones, Charlton, Duncan and Fox. Jones played a particularly excellent game between the posts and saved many a dangerous position. Fox distinguished himself in the forward line, keeping his team mates well fed and the opposing defenders constantly worried.

The game went on at a fast pace, though the ground was quite slippery. Towards the middle of the first half, R.A.F. scored its second goal through Marshall. Only a few minutes after the resumption, Club reduced the R.A.F. lead through Fowler who headed in a pass by Morrow.

The third goal for R.A.F. was a penalty kick. Fox took the kick and easily put the ball into the net.

Fast Pace
Play continued at a fast pace with the Club forwards trying desperately to save the situation. Fifteen minutes after the restart, R.A.F. increased its lead further through Marshall, who headed in a pass by Eve.

Five minutes later, Marshall netted another goal when he robbed the opposing back of the ball and sent in a ground shot not far from the posts.

The game was rather evenly contested during the first half, but with the second period was entirely dominated by R.A.F. players, with the exception of the first few minutes.

For the Club, Bond did quite well in the inter-mediate line, while Morrow and Fowler were outstanding in the forward line.

Travancore v Club Juniors

Travancore defeated the Club Juniors in the Second Division football game at the latter's ground yesterday by 3 goals to 2, after being led 2-1 at the interval.

Club drew the first blood through Gardner who added another within the first 10 minutes of the play.

The Indians managed to net one goal in the first half through Devani.

In the second half, the Indians dominated the greater part of the play and scored two goals in quick succession, all through Phipps.

Signals v C.A.S.C.
At Causeway Bay yesterday, Hong Kong Signals put up a good show against Chinese Amateurs

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

FIRST DIVISION									
South China	4	45	Commando	0	4	21	17		
Royal Air Force	5	Club	1	3	2	11	16		
Travancore	3	Club	1	3	2	11	16		
Chinese Amateurs	2	Signals	1	3	2	11	16		
44 Commando	2	Chinese Centre	1	3	2	11	16		

League Table

SECOND DIVISION									
Sing Tao	12	12	0	0	58	7	24		
3 Cdo. Bde.	13	0	0	2	14	21	17		
Wireless	11	3	0	2	11	16	18		
22 Commando	11	3	0	2	11	16	18		
Royal Navy	10	8	0	2	40	10	10		
South China	10	7	1	2	35	16	13		
A.A.S.C.	12	6	0	2	25	11	12		
R.A.S.C.	12	6	0	2	25	11	12		
Nit Chow	12	3	0	2	22	40	8		
Land Forces	9	4	0	5	16	22	7		
Chinese Centre	12	3	1	8	16	32	7		
Signal Coy.	10	3	1	6	11	21	7		
Police	14	8	1	4	14	25	16		
44 Commando	11	8	0	9	17	36	6		
Dockyard	10	3	0	7	21	34	6		
Naval War	9	2	1	6	11	33	5		
Club	12	3	1	10	15	33	5		
Travancore	9	1	1	7	12	42	5		

Over 25's Win 8-3

(By "Crums")

The "Over 25's" won the Rugby match against the "Under 25's" at Sookunpo yesterday afternoon by 8 pts. to 3 pts.

Although it started very well indeed, the game became rather scrappy in the later stages and those spectators were disappointed who expected a spectacular game between two equally matched and experienced sides.

The game opened at a very fast pace and both sides made some fine passing movements. The halves combined well and it was a pleasure to see the ball being got away from the scrums by two excellent scrum halves, Dorward and Henderson.

The Under 25's showed plenty of dash and gave their opponents several awkward movements. Several times Dorward slipped away from the scrum and he was always well backed up.

The first score came after 20 minutes when Acton scored an unconverted try for the Under 25's. It was regrettable that the Over 25 defence was misled into thinking Acton had stepped into touch, the reason being that the spectators were standing well over the touch line at the time.

The Over 25's gained the lead five minutes after half time, however, when Burgum crossed the line after a set scrum inside their opponents' 25 yard line, from which the tall was heeled very cleanly. Buskell converted and, two minutes later, gained 3 more points by kicking a fine penalty goal from four yards from the half way line.

Despite the snappiness of the forward play both in the scrums and line-outs and the tendency of the backs to starve their wing three-quarters; there were several good performances.

For the winners, Henderson and Thomson combined very well and individually played well, and Ingham played a second came at full back. In the packs, Wright, North and England, for the Over 25's, all played valuable games. Dorward played his usual enterprising and skilled game at scrum half for the losers.

Teams:
Over 25: Ingham (Club) Foley (Cdo.), Stevens (Club), Burgum (Cdo.), Stewart (Club), Thomson (Navy), Henderson (Club), Wynyard (Navy), Curtis (Cdo.), Pounds (Cdo.), England (Cdo.) (Captain), Colchester (Club), Tiehurst (Cdo.), Buskell (Cdo.), Wright-North (Police).

Under 25: Kay (Navy), Stanley (Cdo.), Barry (Navy), Hutchings (Cdo.), R.A.F., Mitchell (Cdo.), Acton (Cdo.), Dorward (R.A.F.), Walmley (R.A.F.), McWhirter (Club).

(Club), Guest (Cdo.), Oliver (Police), Abolam (Cdo.), Lessey (Navy), Graham (Club).
Referee: Dr. J. Selby.

and were beaten by the odd goal in three.
Withers played a great game in the Signals' goal and brought off several good saves. Signals had more of the game in the second half and it was only a breakaway late in the game that enabled the Chinese to secure both goals.

The Chinese opened the scoring in the first half through Wong Tak-chuen but not long after the interval Weatherburn equalised. The winning goal was scored by Lo Chu-pang.

Ambassador Earthquake Rocks Japan Packs His Things

Madrid, Dec. 21.
Reports that British diplomats here are sponsoring conversations seeking a provisional Government for Spain, received their first notice in the controlled press.

Newspapers printed a statement of Julio Alvan, former Foreign Minister under the Republic denouncing any such British activity as a "Spanish Munich."

The British Ambassador, Sir Victor Mallet, was busy packing things while awaiting recall order to London and conferring with Spaniards of different political opinion.

No informed British source here would admit, however, that British diplomats are suggesting any solution of the Spanish political problem.

A source who described himself as "well-informed quarter" on Spanish policy, said that the reports were viewed here as a result of internal politics in the British Labour Party.

The source that such British action was interpreted as an attempt to appease the "rebel" group in the Labour Party which recently criticised the British Government's foreign policy.

(An authoritative Government source in London said on Wednesday that the diplomatic mission to Spain was examining the possibility of setting up an interim Government to supplant France rule until elections could be held. The British Ambassador is preparing to leave Spain in accord with a United Nations Assembly resolution recommending the withdrawal of all diplomats in Spain.)—Associated Press.

GUERRILLA WARFARE NEAR PEIPING

Peiping, Dec. 21.
The bold Chinese guerrillas who pushed through National Government defences, to within 11 miles of Peiping were driven away by counter-attacking Kuomintang troops, but the Reds immediately came back with another thrust at the vital Peiping-Tientsin railroad.

Some highly mobile guerrilla bands were advancing against Anting railroad station, 15 miles south-east of Peiping, Government Headquarters said. Late reports said they were two miles from the railroad town.

The Government's 94th Army troops rushed from Peiping to Huangtsun and Weishanchuang, two stations 11 and 13 miles from Peiping, and routed guerrillas who were closing in on the two towns. Huangtsun is the site of the United States Marines airfield.

Some of the Reds fled southward. After lifting the threat against Huangtsun and Weishanchuang, pursuing Nationalist thrust southward and recaptured Peichuang, 17 miles from Peiping. Instead of fleeing southward, some guerrillas, however, swung around the advancing Nationalists and struck out eastward toward Anting.

Associated Press.

Why The G.I. Is In China

Shanghai, Dec. 21.
The "Ta Kung Pao," China's leading newspaper, says in an editorial that American troops, as part of the common war effort, were stationed in China after the end of hostilities for the purpose of helping China to disarm and repatriate the Japanese troops.

The number of American troops and the duration of the stay were to be decided according to necessity.

"For the purpose of carrying out the disarming and repatriation of Japanese troops we agreed to the stay in China of American forces."

"But now that Japanese troops have been disarmed and the bulk of war prisoners having been repatriated, the United States Government should consider reduction in the number of American troops in China or withdrawal of all American forces."—Associated Press.

(Continued from Page 1)

families had been "wiped out" by the quake.

Poor communications made it impossible to clarify this report. On an average, a Japanese family contains five members and this would push the death toll at least 1,000 higher.

Unconfirmed reports reaching Tokyo said nine steel bridges were destroyed and nine more damaged. Kyodo News Service said 673 boats were washed away.

Investigating teams from the Japanese Home Ministry were rushing to the stricken areas. In a number of cases vast numbers of homes and business houses were still under water late today.

A total of 61 persons were reported buried alive after the quake hit Koshi city, Awaji Island, at the entrance to the Inland Sea.

An Eighth Army announcement said the water system in Takamatsu, on Shikoku Island, was inoperative and would probably take three days for repairs. The telegraph and telephone circuits were also out but some trains were operating.

7,000 Homes Flooded

The announcement said at Kainan and Tanabe 7,000 homes were flooded and 522 washed away in addition to nearly 400 nearly destroyed. At Gabe and Yura, added the announcement, houses were flooded up to the second story level. The town of Kashimoto (Honsu) was also flooded.

The six major cities along a 150-mile front affected by Japan's worst national disaster since the 1923 Tokyo earthquake were Koshi and Takakuwa on Shikoku and Hiroshima, Osaka, Wakayama and Kyoto on Honshu.

Great cracks were ripped in the earth and homes toppled on sleeping families and thousands of homes were battered by the pre-dawn quake and the over-pressured tidal wave that thundered in from the Pacific ten minutes later.

The combined forces of the quake and the 70-foot wave apparently struck the greatest blow at Koshi, Prefecture capital, of 100,000 population at the head of Tose Bay, Shikoku. The Japanese Home Ministry said 13 factories were destroyed in Koshi.

The tidal wave hit the southern tip of Honshu Island and the smaller adjoining island of Shikoku before dawn. The fury was loosed a few minutes earlier by a major earthquake which seismologists said was centred 62 miles offshore in the Pacific. Damage and deaths from the earthquake were reported in Hiroshima and other areas in Southern Honshu.

Burnt Out

U.S. Fifth Air Force pilots back from reconnaissance over the stricken zone said the village of Shingui is one-third burned out. They said the fire apparently started in collapsed buildings, the wind preventing the flames from reaching the rest of the town. A large coastal area was flooded by sea water.

Victims were buried alive under buildings toppled by the quake and tidal wave in both Koshi and Takakuwa. Homes were destroyed in Kyoto, the shirite city. The earthquake tore a crevice three feet wide and 35 feet long in the road at Matsuyama village.

Officials at General MacArthur's headquarters had no immediate announcement on relief plans. They said it was likely American medicines and first aid materials would be provided due to the shortage of Japanese supplies.—United Press.

Felt In Switzerland

London, Dec. 21.
The Exchange Telegraph Agency, quoting the Swiss radio, said earth tremors were felt in the Valais district of Switzerland early today. No damage or casualties were reported.

The dispatch said Neuchâtel Observatory registered three slight shocks during the night and early this morning.—United Press.

California, Too

Pasadena, Cal., Dec. 20.
The Institute of Technology reported that an earthquake of "great intensity" rocked an area 4,800 miles from here at 11.31 a.m. PST. The direction was not determined.

The seismologist, Mr. C. F. Richter, said the shock lasted 15 minutes.—United Press.

Jews To Go To London?

Basle, Dec. 20.

The World Zionist Congress stood firm today against terrorist threats to plunge Palestine into civil war and an official Congress spokesman said that Jewish participation in the next month's London conference on Palestine "can now be considered as a foregone conclusion."

He based his statement on strong indications that the majority of the delegates are prepared to accept partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states if Britain proposes it.

On the issue of future leadership of the World Zionist Organisation, the Congress was still badly split. While it appeared that President Chaim Weizmann could command the majority vote for reelection, this majority at present does not include the powerful American Zionist delegation—financial mainstay of the entire movement.

American Zionists, conceding that there appeared little chance of electing their candidate, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, urged the election of a president in which dissident factions would have equal representation.

Early today, William B. Ziff, New York publisher and self-styled spokesman for the Palestine underground resistance movement, left Basle without waiting for official notification to be expelled from the Zionist World Congress twice.—United Press.

TERRIBLE REFLECTION

Washington, Dec. 21.
President Truman, in an informal address at the White House to the Advisory Commission on universal training for American youth, set up on Thursday, declared: "I do not like to think of it as an universal military training programme."

"I want it to be a universal training programme giving our young people a background in disciplinary approach of getting along with one another."

"Two things I am most interested in as President of the United States. They are peace in the world and production at home. I must make our production machine work in peacetime as it did in wartime so that everybody can have his share of the good things of life under our form of Government."

"We do not want any territory. We do not want to hog the trade of the world."

The President said that almost 30 per cent of those called up for military service were unfit physically or mentally—"that is a terrible reflection on a free country."—Reuter.

Royal Navy were disappointed when 42 Commando, who have taken over the fixtures of 1/5 Commando in the First Division, did not turn up at Sookunpo yesterday.

The lawn bowls match between Kowloon Cricket Club and Club de Recreation, which was to have been played today on the K.C.C. links, has been postponed. It is hoped, however, to have instead an intra-club match and K.C.C. bowlers are asked to turn up for it.

Mrs. Tamara Cornovska and Mr. Boris Pavlovich Krachoff, both residing at No. 4, Hari Avenue, were married at the Registry, Supreme Court yesterday.

Health Inspector Ip Hak-kan, son of Mr. Ip Tin-ang, Chief Interpreter, at the Kowloon Magistracy, was married to Miss Lam Wai-long at the Registry by Mr. J. M. Hall, Deputy Registrar yesterday.

STALIN IS 67

London, Dec. 21.
Marshal Stalin observed his 67th birthday behind an iron curtain of Soviet secrecy and amid persistent rumours that he is gradually delegating dictatorial powers to trusted colleagues because of failing health.

His whereabouts is a mystery but it is generally believed he is at the northern Caucasian resort of Sochi on the Black Sea. He has not made a public appearance since September 8 when he reviewed troops in Moscow.

Moscow radio made no mention of Stalin's birthday but this was not unusual. Stalin customarily marks his birthday only with a small informal dinner party with his family and a few old comrades.

The military commanders of the four occupation zones in Germany sent messages of congratulation to Stalin from Berlin on Friday.

Belgrade radio said Yugoslav papers noted the birthday with praise for Stalin's help and inspiration. Russia's tight censorship prevents Moscow news correspondents from commenting on the rumours concerning Stalin's health but his long absence from public affairs in Moscow lent credence to the reports that he is resting from the severe strain of the war years.

To Retire?

The weekly newspaper "The People" predicted on December 18 that Moscow would announce Marshal Stalin's retirement next month.

The paper said "It will say that Stalin.... has decided to retire from supreme control but will maintain contact in the Kremlin as an elder statesman."

The well-informed Sunday newspaper "The Observer" said on the same day: "The probability is that Stalin has retained effective control only of the major foreign and home policy but that his health has prevented him from carrying out either public functions or administrative work."

Diplomatic observers here generally agreed that Foreign Minister Molotov ranks next to Stalin in power in the Soviet Union. Many believe that Stalin has nominated Molotov to succeed him.

Molotov was expected to fly to Moscow from Berlin today after representing the Soviet Union at the United Nations and Foreign Ministers meetings in New York. It was likely he would report immediately to Stalin.—United Press.

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12.45 p.m.—Variety.
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1.10 p.m.—Orchestral Interlude.
1.15 p.m.—Half An Hour With "The People".
1.30 p.m.—Close Down.
4.30 p.m.—The Organ Dance Band and "The People".
4.45 p.m.—Studio Local News "Round-Up".
5.00 p.m.—Interlude.
5.15 p.m.—London Relay: News.
5.30 p.m.—Light Music.
5.45 p.m.—London Transmission Service: The Count of Monte Cristo, Episode 3 "The Abbe Parla".
6.00 p.m.—Yvonne Printemps & Graham in Emmanuelle Paris.
6.15 p.m.—The "People" & Gullie's Band.
6.30 p.m.—Field (Piano) and Maurice Material (Cello).
6.45 p.m.—London Relay: News.
6.55 p.m.—"The People" for "The People".
7.00 p.m.—Hilting (Tenor).
7.15 p.m.—Half An Hour With "The People".
7.30 p.m.—Close Down.

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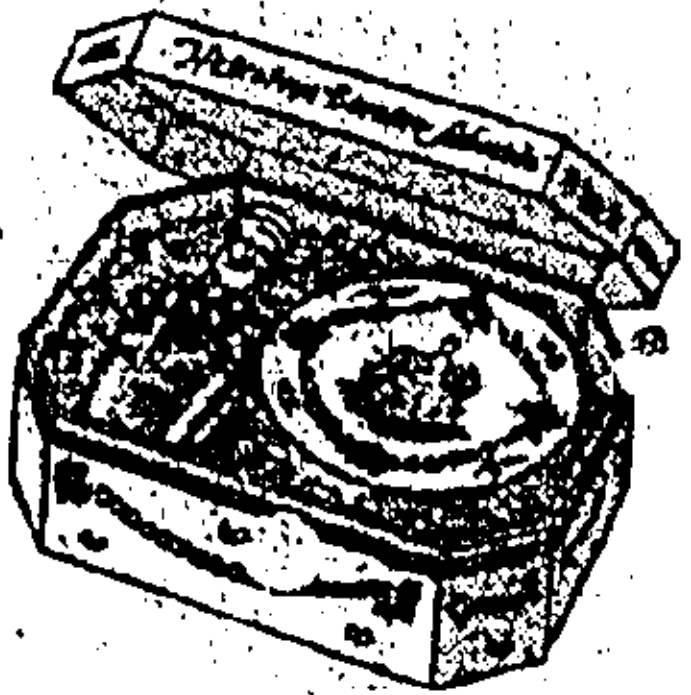
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Forever Amber

The small room was warm and moist. Furious blasts of thunder made the window-panes rattle, and lightning seemed to streak through the room itself. No one had dared say what each was thinking—that this storm, violent even for mid-March, must be an evil omen.

An omen to stamp the small, money-haired, amber-eyed bundle with the brand of fortune fated. For so was the child of Judith Marsh marked, aye, even before her birth.

The village women, all perfectly silent, stood close about the bed, watching what was happening there with tense anxious faces. All at once the baby gasped, gave a sneeze, and opening its mouth began to yell. The women sighed, relieved.

John Mainwaring, eldest son of the Earl of Roswood, and Judith, eldest daughter of Lord Marsh, had been betrothed while yet small children. But there came the Civil War. And while Roswood joined the Parliamentarians, Marsh declared for Charles I. John and Judith found themselves as did Romeo and Juliet, their families, now at enmity as were the Montagues and Capulets.

Before John rode off to join Cromwell, before Judith's father and four brothers went to swell the Royalists' bands, the two met in secret. They loved. And now, in the year 1644, Amber was born of an unwed mother.

As Judith recovered consciousness in the storm-troubled room, she cried out wildly to Sarah, the midwife: "Help me. I don't want to die." But she drifted . . . to a warm, pleasant world where there was no fear of death. She heard once more her daughter's cries. Over and over, but growing fainter, till at last she heard them no more.

There was a clapping of hoof in the Essex village of Mary-

No novel in modern times has created such a sensation as Kathleen Winsor's gripping story of English Court life during the Restoration period. It has been banned in more countries and in more places than any other novel ever published. But it has also been sold in greater numbers within twelve months of publication than any other book. The "Sunday Herald" has bought the exclusive serial rights for Hong Kong of this controversial novel, and this week prints the first instalment of a specially condensed version of the book. This version has been approved by the author.

Kathleen Winsor

green in the year of grace 1690. Amber St. Clare—for so she had been named—lissom of body, slumberous-eyed, turned from her dallying with her two young farmer swains. Like the other village girls, she stared eagerly at the approaching riders.

The half-dozen in the lead wore their hair to shoulder-length. Their suits were of black velvet, dark red velvet, green satin; all with broad, white linen collars. On their heads, wide-brimmed hats with swirling plumes. Long riding capes hung from their shoulders. High-leather boots were silver-spurred. Each man wore a sword.

For Charles the Second had returned to his own land and to the throne his beheaded father had left empty.

Amber, foster-daughter of Matthew Goodegroom and his wife Sarah, who had been midwife at her birth, was the cynosure of the group of villagers as the Cavaliers rode in. It was Lisbeth Morton, an elder girl, who with a loss of her head muttered: "That Amber St. Clare. If ever there's a man about, you may be sure she'll go along. I think she can smell 'em out."

And now one of the foremost riders addressed himself to the group of villagers in general: "Have you a good tavern in these parts?" he asked.

"It was Lisbeth Morton who spoke again. With a little curtsy: "Ye mun like the Three Cups in Heathstone, my lord," she said. "But," protested the Cavalier bandsome, blond, red-faced, Earl of Almsbury, "what's wrong with your own ordinary? I'll fall off

her with a new expression on his face, speculating, admiring alert. While the others watched, as his eyes met Amber's and were held, it seemed that time stopped a moment and, reluctantly, went on again.

First Meeting

The Cavaliers made for the inn. Amber watched them dismount. When they had entered, Lisbeth Morton gave Amber a shove. "There," she cried, mockingly, "much good it did you, Mrs. Minx."

Swiftly Amber returned the shove. "Mind your knitting, chatterbox," she returned. And the girls departed, leaving her alone with her basket on the grass, alone in a magic twilight. Slowly she picked up the basket and made for the inn.

She had never seen anyone like Bruce, Lord Carlton, in her life. His clothes, his voice, his expression . . . she had a glimpse into another world. And everything else now seemed intolerably dull, even contemptible.

Mrs. Peterell, the inn-keeper's wife, was all of a flurry. So when Amber entered and off red to help, she was glad. It with five dusty green bottles in her arms that Amber entered the room where were the Cavaliers, thirsty and hungry. Her eyes sought out Bruce Carlton. But his back was half turned as he stood throwing dice and he did not glance round.

It was Almsbury who saw Amber's look . . . and understood it. Then, quenching his thirst, he laughed. "So that's what you want, is it? Well, come along." He took her wrist and started

linsey-woolsey caught up high in back to show a red-and-white striped petticoat. The laces of her stomach were pulled as tight as possible to show her little waist; and after leaving Sarah, her foster-mother, she had opened her white blouse down to the valley of her breasts. Wreathing the crown of her head was a garland of white daisies, and in one hand she held her broad-brimmed straw bon-grace.

It was at the entrance to the fair-ground that she espied Almsbury and Bruce Carlton. She ran to them. "Breathless, she swept a curtsy which they answered by removing their hats and bowing gravely to the sixteen-year-old. The three walked a little way together. Then Almsbury declared he must find some spick to drink. Amber and Bruce were left alone.

They came to a booth where sparkling jewellery was sold. "Do you see anything you'd like to have?" Bruce asked her. Amber chose ear-rings. As she donned what she was positive were real gold, diamonds, and rubies, she cried: "I'll keep 'em always, your lordship. I vow. I'll never wear another jewel."

A mime was in progress in a tent. "Would you care to see the play?" asked Bruce. But Amber, fearful of "Uncle Matt" being told and with the shocked, jealous eyes of Lisbeth Morton and Gertrude Shakerly on her, shook her head. "Let's go over this way," she suggested.

Her Wish

It was she who led him from the crowd. Through the churchyard across the meadow . . . to Bluebell Wood, where it was cool and dark, with many little nooks, where none would ever see them; to where the river's lush banks were a range wash of marigolds, among the pussywillows; into the forest where were ferns and flowering wild hyacinths and

(Continued on Page 5)

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"THE CONNOISSEUR COMES TO CALDBECK'S"



Amber's first meeting with Bruce Carlton.

his jade if I go another mile without food."

There came a low-pitched feminine voice—the voice of Amber: "There's nothing wrong with our inn, your lordship."

So Different

The halted riders turned their attention to her. They saw honey-coloured hair in heavy waves, low her shoulder, eyes of clear, speckled amber that seemed to tilt at the corners. Her brows were black and swept up in arcs. She had thick lashes.

There was about her a warm luxuriance, something immediately suggestive to the men of pleasurable fulfilment—something for which she was not responsible but of which she was hardly conscious. Dressed like the other village girls in rust wool skirt tucked up over a green petticoat, white blouse, yellow apron, and tight-laced black stomacher, her ankles were bare and she wore a pair of neat black shoes.

Yet she was no more like those others than a field flower is like a cultivated one or a sparrow is like a golden pheasant.

Staring, Almsbury said slowly: "What in the name of Jesus are you doing here in God's forgotten country?" Amber showed teeth that were white and even as she replied, smiling: "I live here, my lord."

But as she spoke it was not at Almsbury she looked. It was at another who was now watching ankle-length; was of bright green

across the room. "Carlton," he cried, "here's a wench who has a mind to lay with you." Then to Amber: "Bruce, Lord Carlton."

Staring up at Carlton she managed a curtsy. Carlton bowed, sweeping off his hat with as much gallantry as though she were a princess.

That was Amber's first meeting with the man who was to run like a thread through the labyrinth that was to be her life.

At The Fair

They talked of the King's return, of the party being on their way to London to greet him. Or at least Carlton talked. For Amber, usually ready with pertinent remark for any man, felt her bones and muscles turn to water and was tongue-tied. Till at length, "Tomorrow's Heathstone May Fair." And as Bruce's eyes swept over her and the blood rose in her neck and face, "It's the finest fair in all Essex . . . can't you come to the fair, my lord?"

"Perhaps," he answered, "it's there's time." Then, his expression wholly serious for the first time: "How fair you are."

On the morrow all roads led to Heathstone Fair. And Amber, standing between two of her admiring swains, Bob Starling and Jack Clarke, tapped her foot impatiently as her eyes roamed the crowds. Where is he?

She had dressed with extraordinary care. Her skirt, not quite another who was now watching

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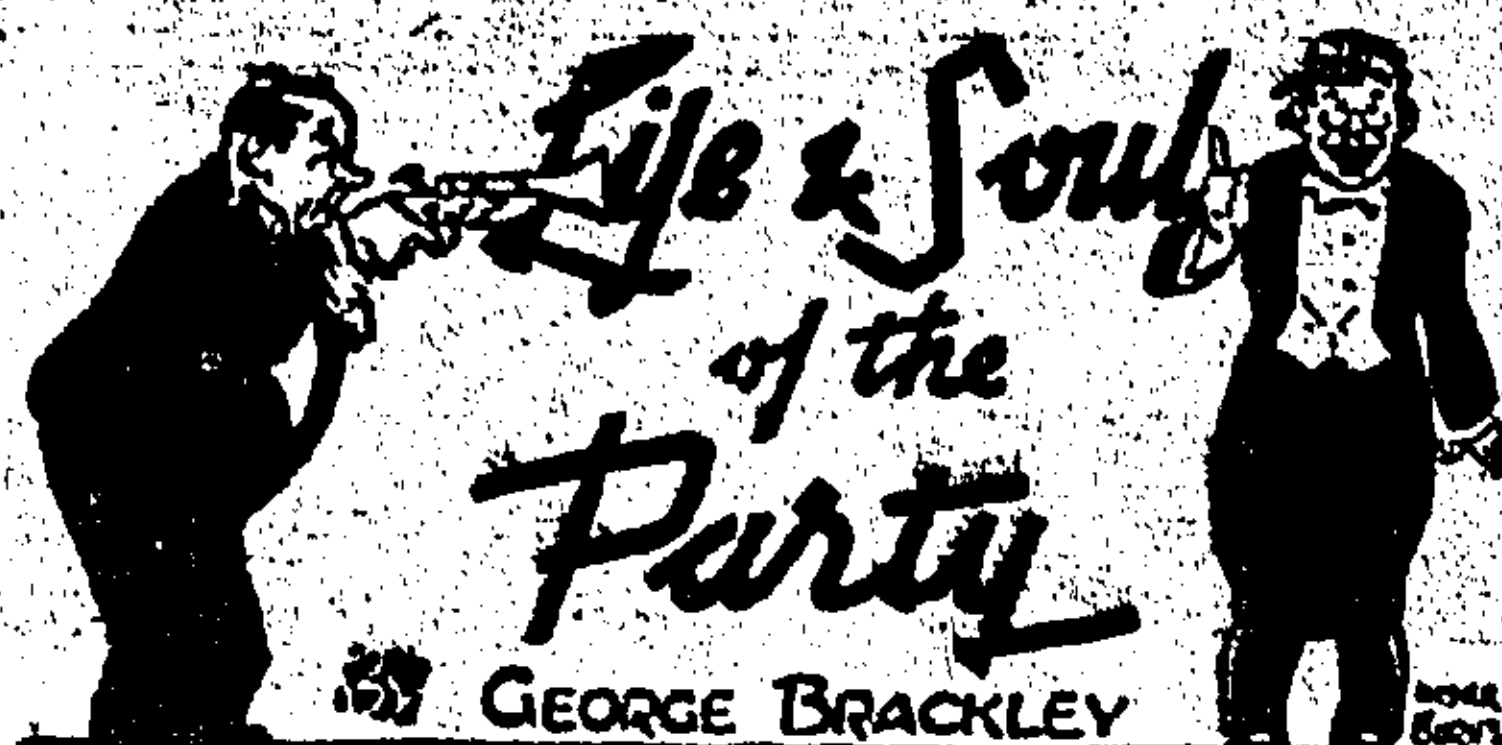
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Party-giving would be an enjoyable occupation if it were not for some of the guests. One of the worst blights upon the average social gathering is the presence of the guest who is determined to be the life and soul of the party. And when this type of pest has fairly made up his mind to be the life and soul of the party nothing will stop him but a charge of shot at close range.

Of course, you do not want him at your party at all; having seen how he has devastated other people's efforts at entertaining; but your wife insists upon inviting him.

"We must have Charlie Higginbotham," she remarks firmly.

"He's so funny," says the little woman, beginning to smile at the very thought of the pest. "Keep us all alive."

That is the worst of women—bless their little pork-pie hats!—when it comes to issuing invitations. They have no discrimination whatever. Quantity, not quality, is their ideal. All guests are alike to them, and the more the merrier (to coin a phrase).

So long as a woman can cram so many invites into the house that the kitchen chairs have to be brought into the dining-room for them to sit on at feeding time, she is happy. Goodness knows what stops her from asking in the local fire brigade, the football team, and the Boy Scouts!

Watch the average wife absently making out a list of guests.

"We shall have to ask poor old Miss Higginbotham," announces the dear little woman.

"Good gracious, my dear girl, why on earth—" you begin, in a state of panic.

"Well, the poor old thing so seldom goes out anywhere," is the calm reply.

What a reason for asking anybody to a party! Because nobody else will stand the tiresome old thing, we have not to—and, what is more, to inflict her upon our other guests. But that is a woman all over. Miss Higginbotham, asthma and all, will make one more guest, and that is all that matters to the hostess. It reminds one of an Indian warrior counting his scalps in the old Wild West stories, now a thing of the past.

That Sinister Gloom

There is only one redeeming feature about the old Miss Higginbotham type of guest. It does not insist upon being the life and soul of the party. This sort comes in grinning from ear to ear and rubbing his hands.

"Hullo-hullo-hullo!" he burbles, being the type which thinks it makes a remark funnier to repeat it three or more times. "Hullo-hullo-hullo! Here we all are!"

This, of course, is obvious; and your heart sinks as you see by the sinister gleam in his eye that it will not be long before the life and soul of the party will be at his deadly work. In fact, already the youngest of the three Larkin girls has emitted a hysterical "yoo!" meant to indicate amusement. The main aim of the life and soul of the party is that people shall amuse themselves according to his ideas and not according to their own.

"I know a jolly game we could do," he cackles. "Make everybody roar, it will." His eye roves around the room until it lights on a shy youth who does not know anybody very well, and is trying to efface himself as far as possible.

Shy and nervous people are the predestined prey of the life and soul of the party.

"Come on, old chap," he cries, catching hold of the shy youth by the arm. "You are the very man. Now, just do as I tell you, and we'll have some fun. Come along, now, and don't be nervous. Nobody is going to hurt you. Ha ha!"

Without Mercy

Blushing like a ripe tomato, the bashful youth is hauled to the centre of the room, while the youngest Miss Larkin says in a whisper that can be heard in the remotest corner, "Isn't he a perfect screamer! I bet we shall have a good laugh now." This remark, of course, is calculated to put the nervous guest entirely at his ease, and make him very glad he came.

The next proceeding is to

place a number of small obstacles, such as stools, boxes, pouffes, and so on, along the middle of the room. The life and soul of the party whips out a handkerchief, and says to the victim: "Now, I'm going to blindfold you, and you must walk to the other end of this room, stepping over these things and being very careful not to knock any of them down."

As soon as the nervous youth is blindfolded, the executioner, with a cunning wink at the rest of the guest, silently removes the obstacles and calls out: "Ready? Go!" The unhappy victim in his progress is hopelessly confused by his tormentor calling out such things as "Mind how you go! Be careful now; that's the way. Step a bit higher. Ah, you nearly did it that time," and so on. As soon as the nervous youth removes the bandage, and realizes what an exhibition he has been induced to make of himself he is, naturally, highly amused, and is more pleased than ever that he accepted your invitation.

But the life-and-soul of the party is not satisfied with a lone victim. He cannot rest until he has scooped in the whole gathering.

Respect For None

"Now we'll have a competition," he announces, gaily. "Dear and charming hostess, may we have forks for everybody, and some bread? Ah, thank you! Now everybody take a bit of bread on the end of the fork. Holding your fork in your right hand, pass it behind your back and bring it out under the left arm. That's the style! Now all try to take the bread from the end of the fork with your mouth."

This results in the whole company going through convulsions of the body suggestive of the extremest agony. Note that the life-and-soul of the party does not attempt to enter this competition—as he calls it. No; he remains outside the circle, looking quite cool and unruffled, and grinning cheerfully at the twistings and writhings of his unsuspecting victims. This is his idea of having a good time.

The other guests, probably obtain their enjoyment from watching the grotesque grimaces made by the rest. At least, that is what the life and soul of the party would tell you. The balance of the guests would probably tell you something else, if they were quite truthful.

Nothing makes the life-and-soul of the party so indignant as seeing people enjoying themselves in their own way. You have probably realised that your elder guests will not care so much for games and dancing, and have arranged a bridge-table or two in another room. This puts the life-and-soul of the party on his mettle. He swoops down on the players like a hawk on a chicken-yard.

"Come, come, why all this unsociability?" he demands, wagging his tongue. "Why aren't you in the drawing-room enjoying yourselves with the rest?" Not that it never occurs to him that any people can enjoy themselves except according to his ideas. Nobody has any views upon enjoyment save himself—that is, any views worth consideration. Moreover, he fancies himself more than a little as an entertainment manager. If he had only chosen to go in for the entertainment business seriously, he would have made such people as Charles Cochran and Sir Thomas Beecham have a severe fit of the jitters.

Nothing Can Stop Him

This he never attempts to conceal from you; he tells you so perfectly frankly. "You see, I know what people like, old lad!" he will say, with a wink.

So he tries to turn your drawing-room into the Albert Hall or something.

"Come along—who's going to give us a turn?" he will call out briskly. "Somebody set the ball rolling. Come, Miss Higginbotham, you've got a singing face. Let us hear from you. What will you give us?"

Poor old Miss Higginbotham looks seriously alarmed at being singled out like this.

"Oh, no, please—really!" she protests, apparently on the verge of bursting into tears. The life-and-soul of the party looks around with a grin. "Lady wants to be pressed!"

he remarks. "Now, Miss Higginbotham, don't be so coy. We're all friends here. Never mind if you don't remember all the words, you can la-la-la the rest!"

"But I don't know any songs," quivers his victim, looking appealingly around for help. By this time Miss Higginbotham is nearly in a state of nervous collapse, and your wife sees that intervention is necessary. Supper is announced.

So for a time there is a little rest from the life-and-soul of the party. While he is making inroads on the lobster salad and the cold turkey and tongue, he cannot be simultaneously frightening Miss Higginbotham into a fit or making the nervous members of the party wish that they were elsewhere.

He leaves off eating long enough to try on all the cracker-caps one after the other, announcing with each new one that he is Mussolini or Leslie Henson, but apart from that they were elsewhere.

Enough

After the party you vow that you will never invite that tiresome boomer again. But all the time you know that when the next party night comes round your wife will insist on having him.

Time Will Tell

The young wife was boasting to a friend about what a big man her hubby was. "Why he's bigger than Ford," bragged the wife, "he's even bigger than Roosevelt." The friend asked, "Is he bigger than God?" "Well, I wouldn't say that," replied the wife, "but he's young yet."

A Racy Story

A man decided to take his wife to the races. They were just leading the horses from the paddock on that memorable day and the wife was nearly beside herself with the thrill of the scene.

Suddenly, as the horses were getting into position at the barrier, she grasped her husband by the arm and in a voice which was filled with nervous emotion, asked him for a safety pin, meaning while grabbing frantically after something that seemed to be slipping around her knees.

Just then someone nearby shouted—"THEY'RE OFF!" And the terrified lady fainted.



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Christmas 1941 - Escape From Hong Kong



By PAUL PRY

Christmas Day, five years ago, Hong Kong fell to the Japanese. To most of those ashore, it was the last day of fighting, a day of increased chaos and worry and many, indeed, forgot what day of the year it was till, perhaps, someone with a very grim wish, told them a "Merry Christmas." To the men of Hong Kong's Little Ships—the MTBs of the 2nd MTB Flotilla—however, it was almost a day of peace, their first in over two weeks of nightly patrols in the island-dotted waters of Hong Kong and all sorts of odd jobs during the daylight hours, ranging from the ferrying of ammunition to the evacuation of a whole battalion of the Rajput Regiment and of continual alerts against enemy aircraft.

They had long before abandoned the use of the Naval Dockyard at Aberdeen and throughout the day lay scattered, in ones and twos, in the waters around Apichau, keeping in constant wireless touch with Hqs. And so it was just at dawn on Christmas Day, 1941, that MTBs 7 and 8 noted their way carefully into Telegraph Bay, their favourite anchorage in the Aberdeen Channel having proved too hot the previous day after HMS "Robin" had shelled the Japanese around Mount Cameron.

jetty which was just discernible in the half-light, her lead-line going rapidly while all hands on deck kept a sharp lookout for possible rocks. After a bit of tricky manoeuvring to get by one nasty crag which seemed to be just below the surface of the water, she tied up safely and MTB 8 was alongside and secured within a few minutes.

As camouflage canvas was being draped over the conning towers of the two boats to conceal their lines from the prying eyes of Japanese aircraft, someone had a bright idea and a work party went ashore with axes, choppers and knives, to return a little later looking like a walking forest of evergreen trees, saplings and huge armfuls of straw and grass.

By the time the sun was peeping over the hill, the two torpedo-craft and the small jetty itself were completely buried under a not inartistic "garden" of trees, shrubs and straw. Even from a hundred feet up the hillside, the camouflage looked most effective and someone "met long" afterwards told me that if he had not seen us come in he would probably not have known we were there; as it was, when he passed at 10 o'clock he thought at first glance the two boats had gone out again.

Tot-Time

The morning passed very quietly, with only the odd aircraft droning across the sky and then at a reasonably safe

Taken on December 29, 1941, at Watchoh, this photograph shows the officers and men of the 2nd MTB Flotilla, together with a number of Army and Government officers, who got away from Hong Kong a few hours after it fell to the Japanese and, as related elsewhere on this page, escaped into Free China after a 3-day hike through the hills and paddy-fields. Admiral Chan Chak, Chinese Navy, who took over the leadership of the "expedition" once it landed in Mira Bay, may be seen in the center of the picture with his arm in a sling. Mr. David MacDougall and one or two others were in hospital when this photograph was taken.

distance. Around tot-time, the two "ship's caterers" asked permission to go ashore to the Dairy Farm plant at Pokfulam and see what they could get for dinner (although the officers were all H.K. R.N.V.R., the ratings were B.N., some "regular" and some "hostilities only," and tiffin did not exist as a meal for them; it was most definitely Dinner).

As "Sparkie" had reported all quiet, permission was granted, and the two men, armed with 45 revolvers, went ashore. They were gone for quite a while and a search party of one was about to be sent ashore when a shout was heard and down the hillside path they came, laden with turkey and plum pudding and a variety of other good things to eat. Who the good-hearted souls at the Dairy Farm were who loaded up the two matelots with Christmas Fare and refused to accept a cent in payment, we never did find out, but as we sat down and tucked into a piping hot Christmas dinner which was soon put before us, I can assure them their right ears should have been burning fiercely.

By now, the sun was shining brightly down and what with Christmas dinner, a modicum of alcohol consumed in toasts appropriate or facetious, and the heat below decks, thanks to the canvas-cum-shrubbery camouflage, most of us felt somewhat sleepy. Having been up on patrol most of the night didn't help any, either. So a couple of lookouts were posted, the duty Sparkie half-dressed in his tiny cabin, and the rest of the two ship's companies got their heads down, many perhaps to dream of other Christmases in happier circumstances.

"All Over"

Around 8 p.m., one of the hands who had gone ashore to stretch his legs arrived back at the double to report he had seen an officer walking along the road from Aberdeen to Pokfulam and had been told "It's all over. They're hoisting the white flag!"

Nothing as yet had come through on the radio and so it was decided we should stay where we were for the time being. Sentries were placed near the roadway some 100 feet above to give warning if there were any signs of Japs arriving and as the radio suddenly buzzed into furious life, a series of explosions and huge clouds of black smoke showed where demolitions were being hastily carried out among the gun batteries at Mount Davis.

Nothing more happened for a while, although gradually the sound of gunfire died away and all was still, save for the lapping of small waves against the sides of the torpedo-boats and the occasional murmur of an aeroplane far away.

(In parenthesis here, I should mention that we had decided some time before that if Hong Kong should fall, we in the MTB would make a dash for it. Hqs. had agreed to this and, in addition, had detailed certain staff officers and important Chinese, including Admiral Chan Chak and Colonel (now Maj-Gen)—S. K. Yee both of whom had done invaluable work amongst the local population during the siege to go with us.)

"Go"

Suddenly, "Sparkie" with a hand that shook slightly with suppressed excitement, handed in a message from Hqs. containing just one word—"Go." Hastily, the camouflage was thrown over the side and six engines roared into life.

With the white bow waves scudding beneath their lifted bows, the two MTBs roared out of the bay towards another bay south of Apichau (or Aberdeen Island), where the rest of the flotilla—five of which were left of the original eight—boats was to rendezvous. All guns were manned and every hand was at his action station. Although the white flag had been hoisted ashore, the White Ensign was still flying on what remained of the Navy in Hong Kong, while the mere fact that we were underway after the cease-fire had sounded ashore made us legitimate targets for Japanese attack.

V-2, as the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Flotilla was always called, "V" being the distinguishing flag for motor torpedo boats—had meanwhile sent a signal requesting permission to remain until nightfall before we made our getaway attempt, but the only reply he got was to the effect that we must leave at once. This, of course, was in its true meaning—that we were officially "gone" from that

moment and on our own, so far as the authorities ashore were concerned. They obviously could not be surrendering to the Japanese and at the same time arranging for naval vessels to get away with some very important persons on board!

"Hold It"

As we came past the Canadian-manned pillboxes at the entrance to Aberdeen Harbour, a signal-lamp flashed. "Have you brought our rations?" it asked. "No," we replied. "The white flag has been hoisted ashore." To this there was no reply.

Soon, four boats were tied up side by side in a shallow bay a little further on. The fifth, V-2's own boat, was in Aberdeen Harbour itself somewhere, making final preparations for the getaway.

Just at dusk there was some more excitement, for down the hill ran a young man. As he stopped at the water's edge, we heard him shouting. Straining our ears, we made out what seemed like "there are some Japs after me!"

All guns were trained on the brow of the hill and, sure enough, a few seconds later, some figures appeared. The guns were just about to open fire when someone with a pair of binoculars shouted "Hold it! They're British!"

Several of our cockle-shell dinghies were put over the side and in a few minutes quite a large party of wet and bedraggled army officers and civilians arrived on board—the Very Important Persons. What the young man, a Dane in the Merchant Navy, had been shouting was "There's some more chaps after me!"

Wrong Channel

They had come down to Aberdeen, missed seeing V-2's boat somehow, and accordingly hunted around for a motor-boat to come out and look for us. Unfortunately, they chose the wrong channel to come out of Aberdeen Harbour, and walked straight into a concentration of heavy Japanese machine-guns somewhere around Brick Hill.

Their engine soon conked out and as the boat itself was rapidly becoming a pretty good imitation of a sieve, it became a case of over the side and every man for himself. They all made the grade, save one (Col. Yee) who drifted ashore somewhere else but managed to get into Free China a month or so later.

Our greatest admiration was reserved for two men—Admiral Chan Chak, who lost his wooden leg but didn't let that handicap him, and David MacDougall, then a Government Cadet and now Colonial Secretary, who had a bullet lodged in his shoulder and who not only didn't make that an excuse to quit, but never complained or grumbled throughout the whole of our five-day forced march over hilly tracks and paths into Free China.

V-2 had joined us by now and by the time Commanding Officers of boats had had their final conference with him, and the passengers had been distributed over the flotilla, it was quite dark and time to get going. For a fullish moon was rising rapidly, making one feel horribly conspicuous a feeling which 15 unslumbered torpedo-boat engines driving us through the water at 80 to 35 knots only seemed to underline.

Jan Boast

In line ahead, we shot out of the bay in a wide sweep towards the Lema Islands, passing well to the south of the Po Toi Group and the Ninepins as the flotilla headed for Mira Bay. The Japs were heard boasting on the radio a few days later that they had sunk four out of the five of us and it is a pity they didn't warn us about that bit of excitement, as we could then have shot quite a line about it. As it was, we had to content ourselves with reporting what we saw, which was nothing.

(Continued on Page 7)

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From Alderman W. G. Grogan, Lord Mayor of Liverpool: "It is a great pleasure to me to have the privilege, on behalf of the citizens of Liverpool, of sending a Christmas Message to members of H. M. Forces who are serving abroad. Many of you serving in Armed Forces are citizens of Liverpool, and I have no doubt you will be recalling your local associations. I can assure you all that at this season of year you are constantly in our thoughts. We are proud of courage and fortitude you have displayed."

"In sending you most cordial greetings, in which I am joined by the Lady Mayoress, I fervently trust that an era of peace and goodwill towards men will be established, and that better understanding may exist among all nations of the world. May God be with you and bring you all safely back home."

From Alderman Thomas H. Adams, Lord Mayor of Manchester: "I welcome this opportunity of sending to all Manchester men who are serving in H. M. Forces overseas, hearty greetings for Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year. When we at home celebrate the feast of Christmas, we shall think kindly of Manchester lads—husbands, relatives, sweethearts and friends—who are doing their duty cheerfully and steadfastly overseas. We shall hope that they too, will capture the spirit of Christmas with the best means at their disposal. Christmas is a time when the British character, at its best, displaying friendship, generosity, and goodwill. May we at home maintain those qualities undiminished for there is no doubt they will be manifest overseas for all to see where proudly Manchester lads are found."

From Sir George W. Martin, K.B.E., Lord Mayor of Leeds: "I send to Leeds men and women serving Abroad a Christmas Message of greeting and goodwill, in which I am sure the Citizens of Leeds will desire to share. I hope the coming year will be happy and successful for each of you wherever you are stationed or in whatever branch of Services you now operate. I hope also that the time will not be distant when you return to your respective homes."

From Alderman J. Pearson, Lord Mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne: "As Lord Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne I am glad to have the opportunity to send greetings to the City's men serving abroad in H. M. Forces. Lads from Canny Newcastle may be assured that they are in the thoughts of their folk at home. This Christmas time with the hope behind the thought that the next Yuletide will see them once again within family circle."

"I know the men from the North Country will maintain in peace the reputation they won during the War and by their conduct do credit to themselves and to the City to which they belong. A Merry Christmas and Good Luck in the New Year wherever you may be."

From Alderman R. J. Winnick, Lord Mayor of Portsmouth: "It gives me the greatest pleasure to extend the best wishes of the Lady Mayoress and myself for Christmas and New Year, to all Portsmouth men who are exiles abroad, with the various Armed Forces. Although they may be far away, I can assure them they will not be forgotten by their fellow citizens."

From Alderman T. Clough, Lord Mayor of Bradford: "My greetings and best wishes are extended to all Bradfordians who are serving overseas in H. M. Forces. May you soon be able to return to your civilian occupation and normal life."

"I know many of you have served overseas for several years now and will be disappointed to be separated from your relations and friends this Christmas time. However, for most of you it will be the last Christmas in which you will be called upon to be away from your families."

"We at home, appreciate the duties you are carrying out on our behalf and we are deeply grateful to you."

"You are ever in our thoughts. On behalf of the citizens of Bradford, the Lady Mayoress and I send our very best wishes to you for a happy and enjoyable Christmas."

From Alderman Robert Shaw, Lord Mayor of Nottingham: "Christmas is here again with its traditional celebrations. Although we in Nottingham are happy to be in our own homes, our thoughts are ever with our men and women in the Forces serving their King and Country all over the world."

"Our warmest thoughts go out to you on this festive occasion; may you have a very happy Christmas and soon return to your loved ones at home. I send to you all the very best wishes from the City of Nottingham for the coming year."

From Councillor Ernest S. Graham, Lord Mayor of Sheffield: "I am delighted to have this opportunity of sending a Christmas message to all Sheffield boys and girls who are stationed abroad. Many have been away from home for a considerable period and our thoughts are with them at this time when all of us wish to be reunited with our families. Citizens of Sheffield are proud of their sons and daughters, who in the far corners of the globe are doing their duty and helping to create a world in which the spirit of Christmas will be more fully understood by all. Good luck to you all and a speedy return to your native city."

From Alderman H. Robinson, Lord Mayor of Hull: "In extending greetings to all serving in H. M. Forces overseas, I would specially desire to mention those from our old City of Kingston upon Hull and East Yorkshire. Whenever necessity arose and His Majesty had need to call upon the Army to defend our homeland, the East Yorkshire Regiment manned and officered in the main by the sons of Hull was usually in the forefront and acquitted itself in the true British tradition. We are longing for the time when you will return to your Wives, Mothers and Sweethearts and to renew again contact with your families. To those who have yet to embark on the married state, I desire to assure you that the Corporation, together with your fellow citizens, are very anxious that in the shortest possible time houses will be erected in order that you may build homes in which, with your families, you may enjoy all the amenities to which you are so justly entitled."

"I am extremely anxious to see all my fellow Citizens happy and contented and the surest way to bring this about is to have a good comfortable home, a regular and congenial job under good conditions and all the best that our educational system has to offer for your children."

"When your return to civilian life I hope to see you taking an active part in the civic life of our people because it will need wholehearted co-operation and the goodwill of all if we are to get the moral and spiritual uplift necessary to build the New Jerusalem."

"May I extend to you and yours all that you could wish for yourselves. May your Christmas be a merry one, and the New Year bring happiness, health and prosperity."

From Alderman George Ferguson, Lord Mayor of Cardiff: "Greetings to the Men of Cardiff. As we approach the Season of Christmas our thoughts are centered upon the family circles of our city and land; those where joy will be manifested in the return after war service of some son, brother or sweetheart; those where a vacant chair will be a silent reminder of a break in the family circle; and again, others where the loved one will return after service abroad and therefore thoughts for their happiness and early homecoming will be in our minds."

"With the war successfully waged it seems particularly hard that those of our citizens who have served so faithfully should not be at home this Christmas but, unfortunately, owing to aftermath of war and general unsettledness of world this is not possible at present, and we can only trust that 1947 Christmas will be your great occasion of reunion and happiness."

"In the meantime I want you all to know that your sacrifice is valued, your names are remembered in our factories and on our streets and that, in good time, on your return home you will receive a full and warm welcome from us all. Wherever you are—Cardiff wishes you a Happy Christmas."

From Councillor W. Harry Taylor, Lord Mayor of Plymouth: "I would, on behalf of the citizens of Plymouth, the Lady Mayoress and myself, send to all of our gallant boys who are serving away from home our sincere wishes for a very Happy Christmas. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. May you have an enjoyable Yuletide and a speedy return to the homes of your loved ones."

From Alderman John Falconer, Lord Provost of Edinburgh: "As Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, I am delighted to have the opportunity of sending a Christmas message to all men and women from Edinburgh now on service abroad. Fighting is fortunately over, but you have still

the privilege of upholding the good name of Edinburgh by the quality of your service. I would like you to know how confidently we rely upon you to do that, how proudly we think of you, and how gladly we will welcome you back when your period of service is over."

"We will miss you all this Christmas, but you may be assured that we will be thinking about you and wishing you the very best of Christmas Wishes. We all hope that these difficult days will soon be over and that you may be back again in your homes to enjoy the prosperity and happiness which you have so well earned."

Rare

The meek little gent in the restaurant finally sighed and decided to give up his steak. It was tougher than sole leather. He called the waiter and pleaded that it be taken back to the kitchen. The waiter dolefully shook his head and said: "Sorry, pal. I can't take it back now. You've bent it!"

As Soon As

A customer entered a small town barber shop. "How soon can you cut my hair?" he asked. "Bill," said the barber, addressing his small son, "run to the Garage and tell the editor if he's done editing the morning edition, I'd like my scissors. Gentleman wants a haircut."

Longer Than That

Ephraim: "Did you know that Jonah was three days in the stomach of a whale?" Rastus: "Dat ain't much. Mah uncle was longer den dat in de stomach ob an alligator." Ephraim: "You don't say! How long?" Rastus: "He's dere yet!"

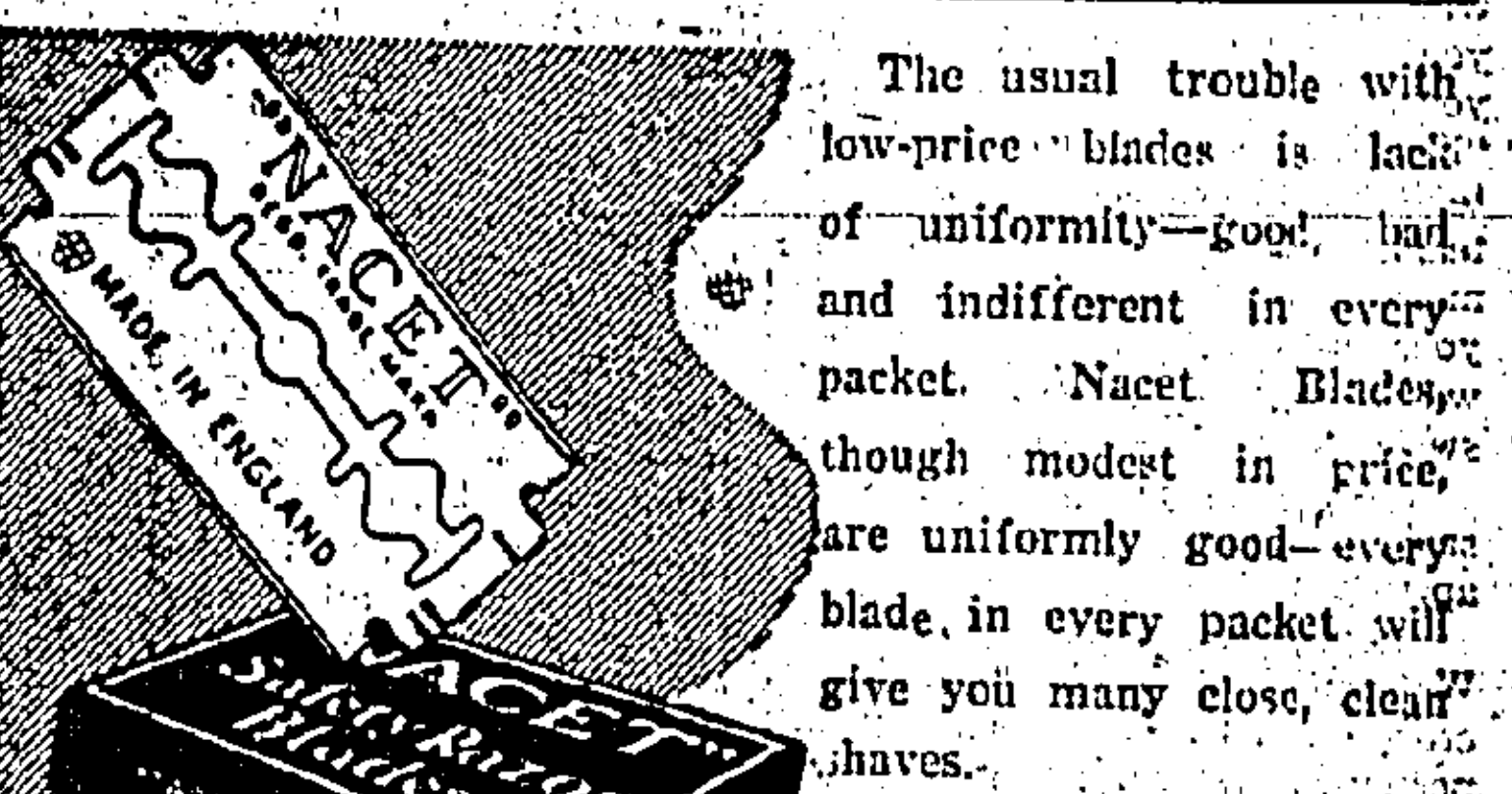
House Part

A soldier went to his colonel and asked for leave to go home to help his wife with her spring cleaning. "I don't like to refuse you," said the colonel, "but I've just received a letter from your wife saying that you are no use around the house." The soldier saluted and turned to go. At the door he stopped, turned and remarked: "Colonel, there are two persons in this regiment who handle the truth loosely, and I'm one o them. I'm not married."

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HONG KONG

Forever Amber

(Continued from Page 1)
the fragrance of flowers and rolling leaves.

First she had knelt by the wishing well and drank from her cupped hand. With closed eyes she made a silent wish. I wish for him; to fall in love with me.

"I suppose you've wished for all the world," he said. "How long before you'll get it?"

"In a year—if I believe it," she answered. "Never if I don't."

They sat as he told her of his wanderings abroad. Italy, France, Spain, America. "And London?" she asked. "Have you been to London too?" He had, ten years before, and again after Cromwell had died.

She stared at him, her heart pounding. There stole over her a slow weakness and languor. Every part of her was tormented with longing for him. . . . at last his hand reached out, went round her waist, drew her slowly toward him. Amber, tipping her head to meet his mouth, slid both arms about him. . . . Like her mother, Amber sealed her first love.

To London
At length Bruce rose. "They'll be waiting for me," he said. "We want to get to London before nightfall." And then Amber, touching her earrings to make sure she had not lost them. "Aid, we mustn't be late." He looked at her in astonishment, then scowled.

"I want to go with you," she cried. "I hate Marygreen. I never want to see it again. Oh, please, your lordship, let me go with you." And when he answered, "No, my dear, I think you'd better stay here," she burst into tears. "I won't. If you won't take me with you, I'll go alone. Please, your lordship, take me along. I won't be any trouble to you, I swear it."

"I don't know about that," he said slowly. "I think you'll be a plenty."

They rode into London over Whitechapel-road. Through streets crowded with hucksters, laystalls, porters, and apprentices crying their wares. . . . and with a black velvet cap and merchants' and whiffs.

To a London beginning to know the reaction from eleven years of Puritan protectorship: a London that was to swing its pendulum to the profligacy, the licentiousness of the restoration; to the amours, intrigues, and chicaneries of the Court of Whitehall in the reign of the second Charles.

From the windows of the parlor at the Royal Saracen, where Bruce had taken her to lodge, Amber saw a bonfire; heard the derisive chant of voices mocking the Rump Parliament; and cried to the street passionately: "Oh, London! Let him love you!" Bruce smiled and slid an arm round her waist. "You fall in love easily," he said. "London eats up pretty girls, you know."

"Not me," she assured him triumphantly. "I'm not afraid."

Next day Bruce went about his business at the Court to get his letters of marque as a privateer. He hired for Amber a French instructor, a dancing master, a teacher of the guitar, and a singing master.

Then one day came Monsieur Baudeacre the coiffeur, and Madame Darnier, the dress-maker. And Amber stood in their room at the Saracen, coiffed, powdered, in a gown of black and honey-coloured satin with evening gathered skirt over white black lace. She heard Bruce's voice at the door: "May I come in, Amber?"

He stopped at the threshold. "Holy Jesus!" he said softly. "How lovely you are! You're all the dreams of fair women a man ever had."

The Shadow
They went to the play. They supped at the taverns that had sprung newly into fashion. And Amber, conscious now of her beauty, of the freely expressed admiration of every man whom she introduced to her, and the jealous looks of every woman of her acquaintance, was happy.

Happy, save when Bruce was absent on his business about the Court. Happy, but for that shadow that loomed before her when he talked of her going to the Indies the next day back to the Indies of the West to repair the fortunes his family had lost in the Civil War.

And with just that one awful pang of her own jealousy when from their window she saw Bruce step out of the coach that belonged to Mrs. Barbara Palmer and how over her hand in good-night. For Amber knew already that Barbara Palmer—who was later to become the Lady Castlemaine—was the all-powerful mistress of King Charles and the fashion of the day.

So passed the time for her, days that were a whirl of excitement in the crescendo of pleasures that grew with the enervation of the King into the City, and nights of tempestuous love as she

lay in Bruce arms, her own about him, vowing she would never let him fall without her.

Till at last he announced he had not his letter of marque, his two ships, and capital from the King and his brother James, the Duke of York. And that as soon as his ships were provisioned he would be sailing.

Her Fortune
Long and vainly Amber pleaded to sail with him. . . . anywhere. And now Amber thought she was with child. As was the custom, she went to consult an astrologer, and in the City one day she found Mr. Chout, under the Sign of the Moon, Six Stars, and a Hand.

He made play with consulting his charts, with examining her palms, and with the crystal. Then he told her: "I see a very great fortune, madame. I see jealousy and discord, I see half a dozen husbands."

"But I don't want half a dozen!" cried Amber. "I just want one."

"And one thing more I see," said Mr. Chout, unheeding of her interruption, "you will have, madame, a hundred lovers."

Then came the day when Amber was sure of her pregnancy and she told Bruce. He was shaving, and he cut himself. Then: "Oh Lord, Amber—I'm sorry. This is the devil of a mess."

He held her in his arms and told her he was sailing on the morrow. And then: "I haven't much time, so listen. I'm leaving the coach and horses for your use. The coachman gets six pound a year with his livery, and the footman three. I've paid all the bills."

From his doublet he drew a heavy leather wallet. "There's five hundred pound. That should be enough to take care of you and the baby for several years. Put it with Shadrac Newbold, the goldsmith, who is reliable. He'll allow you 6 per cent. at 30 days' call. Don't trust anyone. . . . And now I've got to go."

"Bruce, please don't go. Please don't leave me. Please. . . . I'll come back one day. I'll see you again. . . ."

She gave a cry like a lone, by, desperate animal, and reached out to grab hold of his arms. His mouth caught at hers for an instant. Then . . . the door closed. Amber slumped slowly to her knees and her head dropped into her hands.

A 'Chaperon'
Amber moved after Bruce's departure to the Rose and Crown in Fetter-lane, a more fashionable quarter. For days she shut herself up in the single room she had taken. She would go back home. She dared not. She would never again be young.

But then as time passed she found herself take an interest in "food." Once again she began to use cosmetics, to don and admire her finery. And to go out. . . . waiting for her coach on one of her excursions. Mrs. Goodman, a fellow-lodger at the Rose and Crown, introduced herself to Amber.

Mrs. Goodman accepted Amber's invitation to ride with her, and together they visited the "Change" in the City, where went women of fashion to buy their ribbons and gloves and essences. Middle-aged, plump and pink, Mrs. Goodman warned Amber of the dangers besetting a young girl in London. And soon she constituted herself Amber's chaperon. They visited the Mall and Hyde Park and supped in each other's apartments. And then one day Mrs. Goodman told Amber about her nephew, Luke Channell.

"Faith," she said, "I vow it was worth a Jew's eye to hear my silly young nephew going on about you last night. He swears you're the most glorious creature he's ever seen."

Amber glanced over at her swiftly. "When did he see me?"

"Yesterday when you lighted from your coach. I thought he would fall out of the window and break his noodle. But I told him you're intended for an earl."

Luke Channell was a disappointment to Amber. Stocky, flat, snub-nosed face, he had two front teeth broken and a kind of slippery green moss grew along the edges of his gums. But he was well-dressed, his manner was self-assured, and he seemed tremendously smitten with Amber. And although she felt suddenly tired and discouraged when he left her, she thought of her pregnancy and the hopelessness of her situation.

Married
Amber and Luke Channell were married three weeks after they met. She had not been eager, but he seemed to have the one redeeming quality of a violent infatuation for her. Within a day of their marriage that one illusion was shattered. His obsequious, adoring manner vanished almost overnight. Now he was insolent, crude, overbearing.

And while he began to harangue Amber for money, his aunt was borrowing fans, gloves, jewels. Soon Amber realized she had been caught between them, and when packages poured in daily to the Rose and Crown for them both, not one paid for but to be charged to Amber, she determined to have it out with Mrs. Goodman.

"Luke's money," said his aunt. "To tell the truth, and you may as well know, Luke's father is furious he married without his leave. Poor Luke. He may be cut off without a shilling. But then, my dear, with all your money no doubt the two of you could shift well enough."

Money Gone
Despite Bruce's advice, Amber had not banked her money with Shadrac Newbold, the goldsmith. Instead, still with her country instincts unweakened, she had hidden the wallet that Bruce had given her. She changed the hideous place from time to time, leaving out only a few necessary coins. She thought the system a clever one. And one day went to her coach to find the wallet gone.

Like a dolls pram, which are very scarce, or a building set, or a good rubber ball, we have parents are able for the first time to show them what real toys are—toys they can play with without breaking—toys that work.

The Christmas fairs are back this year, with all the pre-war glamour and glitter. But the postwar prices are more than double those of 1938.

After seven years of shoddy or black market toys, the British schoolboy can have his first building set or his first pair of boxing gloves. Mary may get a dolly whose eyes open and shut. Little Johnny may get a sledge, or a pedal scooter, or a huge rocking horse. Government-controlled ceiling prices were removed early this year, and the toy industry has gone all out to give the children their first real Christmas since 1938.

The demand is terrific. Fathers who have had no chance to play with junior's toys crowd the stores as eagerly as the children, searching for the still non-existent electric trains and rails, or to handle lovingly the many other constructional toys on display.

Mothers bend over huge plush animals selling at eight guineas and whisper, "That's a real toady bear, darling, remember the story-book we read the other day. That's what Mummy had when she was a little girl, perhaps. Father Christmas will bring one."

Sales assistants bemoan the paper shortage. "When we get something in short supply, but few balls."

Luke Channell came home very late and very drunk that night. Next morning he discovered Amber's pregnancy and with many oaths charged her with it. Enraged, Amber struck him hard. He grabbed her by the hair, jerked her head till her neck high broke, and hit her on the jaw. And but for the interference of his aunt would have killed her.

It was then that Mrs. Goodman discovered that with the wallet Amber's entire fortune had gone. But despite the mutual recriminations—that Amber had married only to give her bastard child a name; that Luke had only married for her money—there followed a truce that seemed almost a reconciliation.

And after her husband had brought her home, a bracelet as a gift, Amber agreed to go out to dine with him at a little inn she knew. It was Panacas, a tiny village to the northwest, three-quarters of an hour by coach from Fetter-lane.

It began to rain and their wheels were bogged. The inn was greasy and the dinner was a bad one. After a while, the landlord knocked on the door of their room and called Luke, who went out.

For a long time Amber waited. At length she went below and asked mine host where her husband was. "He's gone, mem. Said you was a lady wanted to clope with 'im. Went off in the coach and said you'd pay the reckoning."

In Newgate
It was only by taking the landlord's son with her on horse-back to the Rose and Crown and by giving him the pearl-patterned gold-knobbed bodkins from her hair that Amber discharged the bill. She was now alone.

The creditors began to arrive next day. In three days her room swarmed with them. On the fourth the constable came and took her and threw her into Newgate for debt of £397.

In the Condemned Hold Amber lay with human dogs, male and female. Beset by vermin, reeling with the stench of unwashed felons, she tasted every degradation, knew every squalor the noisome gaol belched forth. Till she brought herself to bribe the female gaoler with her wedding-ring and the string of pearls Bruce had given her. They moved her to the Lady Debtors' Ward, just a degree less squalid.

And in the Common Tap Room, where prostitutes, thieves, and debtors met to drink, Amber met Black Jack Mallard, aristocrat of Newgate by dint of his being a famous highwayman.

They Escape
Amber paid the price which Black Jack Mallard's first glance told her he must exact to take her with him on the escape he had planned.

And so came to find herself rattled down Old Bailey-street in a Hackney with the swarthy highwayman and to the house of Mother Red-Cap in Whitechapel, the Thieves' Sanctuary, which the days of the Restoration, and long after, knew as Alsatia.

(Next week: Amber lives in Thieves' Sanctuary. But at the coronation procession she is noticed by the King.)

Christmas Fairs Are Back This Year

Goggle-eyed, the London children throng the toy fairs of the big stores where many parents are able for the first time to show them what real toys are—toys they can play with without breaking—toys that work.

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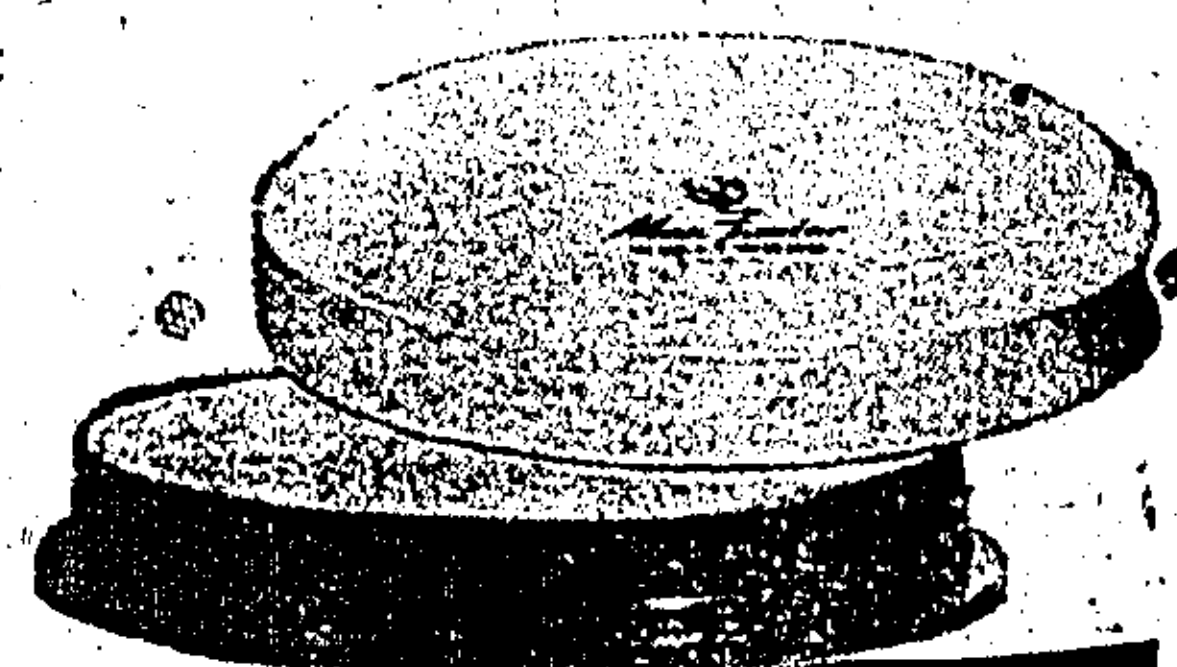
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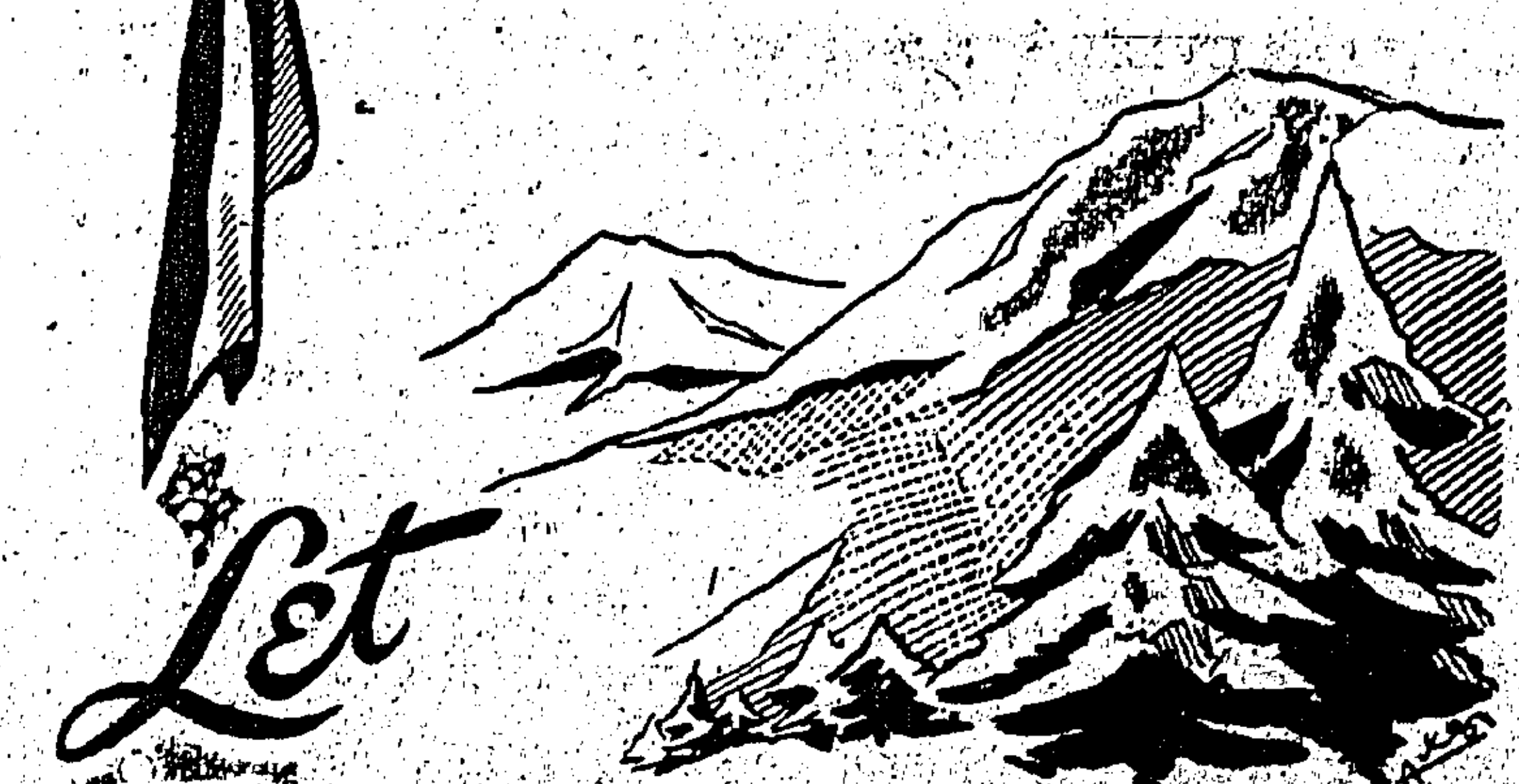
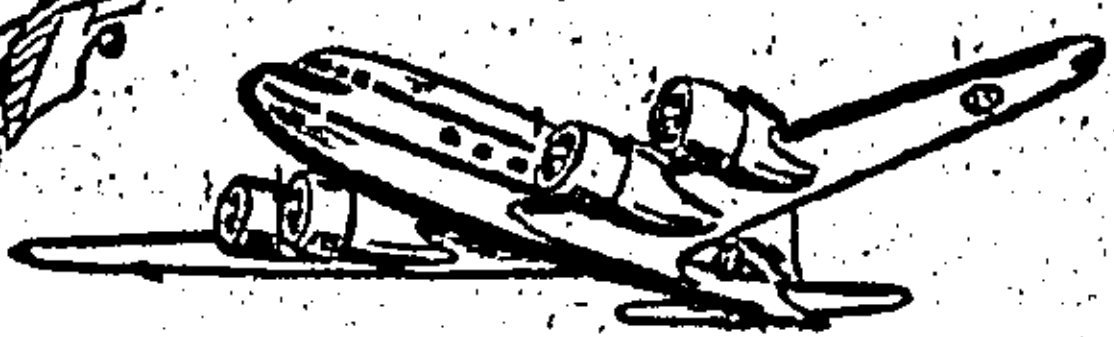
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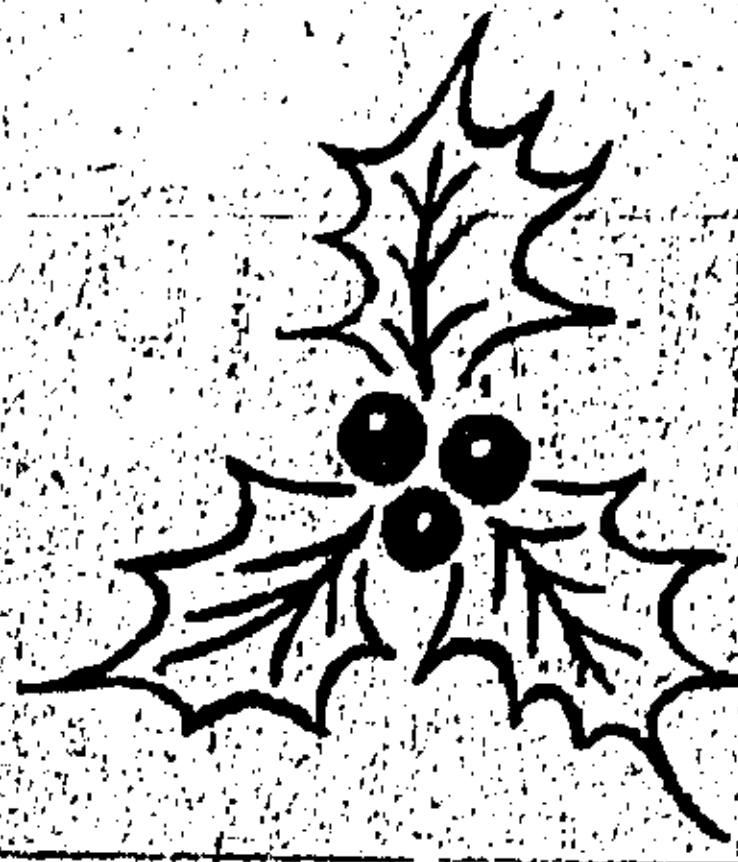
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INISHUATIVE

By
MABEL CONSTANDUROS

"I been thinkin' Em'ly," Grandma hitched the best armchair a table nearer to the kitchen fire. "What about talkin' the kids up West to-morrow to have a look at the Christmas shops?"

Mrs. Buggins finished the small sock she was darning, bit off the wool and began to turn in the toe with a thoughtful air.

"I dunno, Gran'ma," she said at last. "The fates for you and me and the children'll come to over a bob there and back, and the prices is so high you can't buy nothin' and we all see leaps of things we want and can't have and comes 'ome tired and disagreeable. I dunno as we adn't better shop round 'ere and done with."

"I'll stand the fares!" Mrs. Buggins laid down her work and stared. Never since she could remember had Grandma made such an offer.

"What, all of us?" she said.

"You me and Alice and Emma and Baby?"

"Yes, And Cousin. 'Aroid if 'e cares to come."

"Gran'ma!" Mrs. Buggins's eyes were wide with astonishment. "Ave you come into money or somethink?"

"I got a plan," replied the old lady with a mysterious air, and however much she was questioned she would say no more.

The offer of a free trip up West was too good to miss, of course. Cousin Harold, who was a plumber, managed to get the day off and arrived at the house in his best suit, ready to escort the party and carry either Baby or the parcels as occasion arose. Grandma was ready early for office, waiting impatiently in the kitchen, fully dressed even to a pair of black cotton gloves and a very large umbrella.

"You won't want the umbrella Grandma Ducks," said Harold. "It's a lovely day."

"What I want's me own business," retorted Grandma. "Umbrellas is useful for more things than rain."

"I wish you'd of let me bring dinner," said Mrs. Buggins wistfully. "I could 'ave packed up some nice paste sandwiches and a few sausages and bren butter and brought 'em in me string bag with a bottle of tea."

"Don't be so common Em'ly," Grandma gave her daughter-in-law a withering glance. "You can't set down in the middle of one o' them posh shops and eat out of a bag. There ain't nowhere to get, for one thing. Look at the fuss them done up if you was to set yourself down and spread out your dinner on one o' their counters. I'll manage dinner all right, don't you fret."

"D'you think she knows what she's sayin'?" whispered Cousin Harold to Mrs. Buggins as they set off. "I can't last all day long on a whiff of perfume and the sight of a few decorations you know."

"The children'll be famished, too," said Mrs. Buggins. "I expect the 'ole thing'll fall on me as usual. I shall 'ave to spend all I've saved for Christmas on one meal at one o' them posh restaurants where they charge you for breathin' to begin with, let alone food. We was fools to come. I shouldn't wonder, 'Aroid."

"Well let's see what happens," returned Harold. "We're in for it now anyway, and the old girl's got some plan in 'er 'ead. Look at 'er obblin' along in front like a good 'un."

"We'll go to Hall and James's," said Grandma firmly as they settled themselves in a bus. "It ain't fur from the bus stop, and we shan't 'ave a long walk."

The shops, with their Christmas decorations, were certainly looking most attractive and Mrs. Buggins could hardly 'get along' so eagerly did she gaze in every window they passed, but Grandma glanced neither to right nor to left, elbowing her way determinedly through the crowds till she led the party right to the entrance of Messrs. Hall and James's clothing store.

"Here we'll separate," she said firmly. "You and the kids can go and 'ave a look in the Toys, and I, I dunno, 'Aroid, ain't above lookin' at the model train. You'll meet by the stairs in the Bargain Basement in a 'olick time."

"But where are you goin' by yourself, Gran'ma?" asked Mrs. Buggins.

"Never you mind. You go and look at the Toys and meet me in a 'olick time."

"That'll be near one o'clock. We shan't 'ave to be much longer if we're goin' to get 'ome to dinner. We shan't get back till two even then."

"You go on and do yer gazin' and garpin' and leave the rest to me," said Grandma over her shoulder as she bustled away and left them.

"Well, come on 'Aroid," Mrs. Buggins guided her impatient family towards the lift. "We may as well 'ave a look round while we are 'ere, but 'pon me word I think Gran'ma must 'a gone dippy—I do it straight!"

They forgot all about the old lady, however, in the delight of looking at the toys. Harold and Alice could not be coaxed away from a model railway, and Emma and Baby were entranced at the dolls and perambulators. The hour had gone before they noticed it. It was Mrs. Buggins who remembered the time. Perhaps the face of having to carry a large and heavy child had something to do with it. She touched Harold on the arm.

"One o'clock 'Aroid. Time to meet Gran'ma."

The children protested at being led away from the toys, but once in the lift they all discovered that they were hungry.

"Mum, when can we 'ave dinner?" pleaded Alice. "I feel as empty as an 'ollet can."

"I thought as much, 'Aroid," Mrs. Buggins looked anxious. "Gran'ma ought to of let me bring somethink to stay our pangs. Now we shall either 'ave to go and buy goodness knows what or starve till we get 'ome. Silly old girl! I wonder where she is?"

Gran'ma came up to them almost as soon as they got out of the lift.

"I'm glad you come 'Aroid," she said. "There's a feller 'ere been follerin' me round somethink disgraceful. Won't take 'is eyes off of me."

She shot a baleful glance at a fair, harmless looking little man with glasses, who immediately became absorbed in a tray of ladies underwear.

"Ashamed of 'issel you see," she remarked acidly. "And so 'e ought to be—aminyin' defenceless females. 'E may think 'issel lucky I ain't give 'im in charge." After another withering glance at the little man, who had turned his back rather pointedly to her, Grandma announced her intention of buy a pair of stockings.

"Must you Gran'ma?" asked Mrs. Buggins. "The children and me's fadin' through!"

Grandma was already turning over a heap of stockings. The assistant who came to serve her was extremely patient, but no pair of stockings was quite the shade Grandma wanted. One was too brown, another too grey. What Grandma would really have liked, she said, was a sort of fawn puce. The assistant was sorry, but that shade was not being worn.

"Pity!" Grandma rummaged busily among the stockings. "And you can tell that feller, 'Aroid," she added loudly, "that I may be a bargain, but I ain't the sort to get picked up by the likes of 'im!"

The fair little man with the glasses, who was also looking at stockings, turned round suddenly at the sound of Grandma's voice, so suddenly that a tray of stockings was somehow knocked to the ground.

The little man apologised profusely and bent to pick them up, colliding with Grandma as he did so, and knocking out of her hand the large umbrella. Each of them made a grab at it but the little fair man got it first. Unfortunately he returned it to Grandma upside down, and out of it fell a miscellaneous collection of small articles—three dusters, a man's tie, a pair of wollen gloves, a child's pinafore and a tooth-brush. "Clumsy monkey!" said Grandma bitterly. "I 'ope you're satisfied!"

"I am, thank you," said the little man sharply. "Satisfied that you've been helping yourself to the firm's goods. I must ask you to come along with me to the Manager's Office."

"Oh no you don't," retorted Grandma with spirit. "Fellers me about all the mornin' and then asks me to go with 'im to a office!" she said loudly to the small crowd which began to collect them. "Go away you 'Molestin' Monster," she added severely to the little man, "and don't try any of your games on with me! I seen your sort before!"

Grandma's arm, but she drew herself up grandly and shook him off.

"Up and me you seducin' shark!" she said with great distinctness. "Till come to the Manager all right to complain of bein' molested. I got fifty witnesses 'ere to see you knock me umbrella out of me 'and and lay your 'and on me arm in a familiar manner. I ain't standin' any of that. If I see only a poor old party with no one to protect 'er," Grandma's voice shook, "and there wids a murmur of sympathy from some of the bystanders."

"Oh don't say that, Gran'ma," called Mrs. Buggins from the edge of the crowd, which had gradually pushed its way between her and the principal actors in the scene. "'Aroid and me's 'ere. We'll never desert you!"

"Accomplices!" whispered someone near her.

"I must ask the whole party to come along with me to the Manager's Office," repeated the man with glasses firmly. He began to move off, accompanied by Grandma and followed by the crowd.

Mrs. Buggins, fearful and anxious, with the three bewildered children and Cousin Harold, pushed her way along as close to the old lady as she could, but attracted by Grandma's loud remarks, the crowd was becoming bigger every moment.

"Keep away from me, you B-trayin' Monster!" Grandma remarked loudly. "It's a nice thing that jest because a person refuses to be picked up in a bargain base to ment they should be accused of thievin'." Let 'em look to themselves, 'im and 'is Manager friend! I got a 'undred witnesses to show 'e's called 'ae a thief. Where's a feller, I say? Fetch a policeman!"

"What's all this?" The manager a tall, keen faced man in correct morning dress, looked up impatiently from his desk as the house detective and Grandma, followed with difficulty by the rest of her family, pushed their way through the crowd and into the office.

"Clear case of shoplifting, sir."

"Yes, yes, but couldn't you have brought her along quietly?"

"Quietly?" Grandma, her bonnet awry, her hair slightly dishevelled, faced him shrilly. "E tries the 'ole mornin' to get me to give 'ed to 'is dishonourable advances, and when I spurn 'im 'e trumps up a charge of shop's liffin'! I demand a policeman! I claim the protection of the law!"

The manager looked from her angry face to that of the detective, who shook his head.

"Clear case, I'm afraid, sir. Found all these things in her umbrella."

"Well, what of it?" demanded Grandma. "Can't anyone carry their purchases in an umbrella if they like, instead of bein' cluttered up with a lot of silly parcels?"

"They weren't wrapped up, sir," said the detective, in response to another look from the manager.

"Course they weren't!" retorted Grandma. "Little brown paper parcels slides out of a umbrella where sort things wouldn't. If I choose to onwrap my parcels so as to carry 'em more convenient, am I to be 'ounded through the shop like a common thief? Me, that's always been known as the acme of respectability!" Grandma's voice shook, and she dabbed her eyes with her handkerchief.

"Did you pay for these things, Madam?" asked the Manager very suavely.

"Course I did," replied Grandma. "And I got the bills to show 'em."

"Might we see them?" the Manager flashed a stern look at the detective, but his tone was smothered himself.

"Ere they are!" Grandma fumbled for a moment at an ancient black bag she was carrying, then threw a little bundle of papers on the Manager's desk.

"He examined them carefully, put on his glasses, examined them again, and glanced up sternly at the detective."

"These are all in order," he said. "The goods are all paid for. You have made a grave mistake, Mr. Docking."

Mr. Docking, whose face had become pale green, began to stammer an apology.

"It's all very well for 'im to apologise," said Grandma in a shaking voice, "but what about me that been 'ounded through the shop like a thief in the sight of 'undreds?" She paused a moment, then held up her finger dramatically. "Listen to 'em outside," she said, "waitin' to see a pore old woman come put in 'andcuffs!" Her voice broke entirely on the last word and she began to sob. The manager rose and patted her shoulder. "There, there," he said kindly. "Don't be so upset." But Grandma only sobbed the louder. Alice and Emma, seeing trouble, as children do, without understanding it, began to cry as well, and Baby set up a loud wail in sympathy.

"Listen," The Manager spoke in a very loud voice so as to be heard above the din. "Suppose you all come up and have lunch first of all—of the firm's expense, naturally."

The children's tears ceased at the mention of lunch, and Mrs. Buggins had actually opened her mouth to utter her grateful thanks, when Grandma silenced her with a glance.

"Lunch," she said. "You take a person's character away like you done mine and think you can buy 'er off with judch!"

"I only suggested it as a preliminary," The Manager, recognizing Grandma as a formidable opponent, mopped his brow. "Afterwards we can—perhaps—come to an arrangement."

"That'll be too late," said Grandma firmly. "My nephew, 'E never seen 'is pore old Auntie accused of thievin' without doin' somethink about 'er danger, would you 'Aroid?"

"You wouldn't wish to be vindictive, I'm sure, madam?" The manager spoke in his most ingratiating voice, but there was no merriment in the hard old face confronting him.

"Suppose—suppose each one of your party were allowed to choose a Christmas present?" he suggested hurriedly. Small beads of perspiration had begun to collect on his forehead and upper lip. The detective had slipped away.

"Could we choose what we liked?" Grandma's grim old eyes gazed unwinkingly into his.

"What you like," assented the Manager. "Within reason, of course," he added hastily.

"There wasn't no reason in what you done to me," answered Grandma implacably. "And there wouldn't be no reason in goin' to 'or, I shall 'ave a nice armchair myself." Me daughter-in-law'll 'ave a silver tea pot. The kids'll 'ave bicycles and 'Aroid—a bicycle. The Manager was putting up a feeble fight.

"No, she can 'ave a wireless set," Grandma's eye twinkled. "Cousin 'Aroid."

"E'll 'ave a sort of close," interrupted Harold hastily.

"Nothink of the sort. E'll 'ave a dozen o' port—and mind it's the best!" asserted Grandma.

The Manager shrugged his shoulders. "Very well: if you'll sign an undertaking that these goods constitute a full satisfaction of any claim you may have on the firm."

"Done!" said Grandma. "And now we'll 'ave somethink to eat!"

(Continued on Page 8)



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Try These After Your Christmas Dinner

After the serious business of eating the turkey and trying to find the threepenny bits in the plum pudding comes the dessert, and that is the time when most of the dishes have been cleared away, to try some amusing tricks.

First of all, can you tie a knot in a piece of string when both ends are held in your hands? It can't be done. Well, try this way. Lay the string in a straight line on the table in front of you. Next cross your arms and fold them tight, so that your right hand peeps out near your left elbow. Now lean forward—I hope you won't be too full to do this—and with your arms still crossed take the ends of the string in your fingers. Keep a tight grip on the ends, sit back with a sigh of relief, and uncross your arms. You will find the knot has been tied, even though you had hold of

the string all the time.

Of course what has really happened is that you tied a knot in your arms, and when you uncrossed them, this knot was passed on to the string.

Now try some balancing tricks, although there is really no deception about them. They can all be done with a pair of steady hands and just a little patience.

First of all try a simple one. Take two clean forks and stick them into opposite sides of a cork, so that they are near at right angles to the length of the cork. Now balance the cork on the tip of a bottle—a jug will do if there isn't a bottle on the table—and you will find that you can tilt the bottle to pour out a glass of whatever it contains without upsetting the cork and the forks.

You can take this experiment a little further, by sticking a pin into the bottom of the cork and putting a weight on top. Then give one of the forks a tap and the whole contraption will spin merrily round, perfectly balanced on the pin.

Before leaving the cork and the forks you can perform a "trick" which is really a reproduction of a very famous experiment made by a scientist named Foucault many years ago. For this you need a pendulum, which is easily and quickly made by pushing a match through a small piece of fruit—a cherry or even a large sultana—and tying a piece of cotton to the other end of the match. Fasten the other end of the cotton which should be about five inches long, to the cork. This time you will need three forks, pushed into the cork so as to form a tripod that will stand up. Balance the tripod on a large plate and start the pendulum swinging.

At the end of the pendulum's swing, put a pile of salt or sugar, so that at each swing a groove is cut. As long as you leave the apparatus alone, the pendulum will go on cutting through the same place in the pile of salt, but move the plate ever so slightly and the pendulum will miss the salt. This is because it continues to swing in exactly the same line. You can move the plate slowly round in a half circle that the pendulum again cuts the salt.

Here is a good catch which needs only a penny, a halfpenny, and a piece of paper. Place the halfpenny on the paper and cut out a hole the exact size. If you next produce your penny and say you can put the penny through the hole, everyone will doubt if it is possible, because the hole is so much smaller than the penny. But it can be done very simply by bending the paper round the hole, when you can gently push the penny through from underneath without tearing the paper.

Could you make two tumblers stick together so that you can lift one with the other? This is how it is done. In case of accidents, use old glasses and make sure they are the same size. Into one glass place a small piece of paper that you have set alight. Then place a sheet of paper over the mouth, closing it completely. Put the other glass over the paper and when the little fire you have made has died down, you will be able to lift the two glasses together by taking up the top one. The burning paper used up some of the oxygen in the lower glass, and as no more could get in, created a partial vacuum, which makes the two glasses stick together.

And what did he do with the cabbages? Gee, stuttered Little Oscar, "I couldn't tell you that!"

take a fraction of the time it takes to embroider or hemstitch one little article.

Escape From Hong Kong

(Continued from Page 3)

Oh yes, once, just before we got into Mirs Bay, we saw searchlights flashing up into the sky from a ship on the horizon somewhere south of Hias Bay, but since we were not airborne at the time we didn't think we could claim that as being particularly exciting.

Our arrival in Mirs Bay brings this account of our Christmas Day almost to an end, as it was then night on midnight, December 25, 1941. How we all got away safely into Free China is another story, and having lost all my notes, etc. in the middle of the Indian Ocean almost a year later, to the day when a U-boat's torpedo found its mark in the venerable passenger liner I was travelling in, I don't feel competent to write it—not at the moment, anyway.

That we did get away is vouchsafed for by the photograph which appears on this page, taken the day after we arrived in Waichow, Free China.

A Gambler

Briefly, Admiral Chan Chak contacted the guerrillas in the Mirs Bay area; we got everything ashore at Namoa that we could and then scuttled the MTBS, walked all night to the shelter of a wood at Koutit, where we lay up during the day while an occasional Jap aircraft buzzed harmlessly about overhead; and at dusk on Boxing Day set off and marched, in single-file most of the time, through the hills and paddy-fields to Free China and safety. Thanks to Chan Chak and the guerrillas, we never saw a single Jap and the only real danger-point, the crossing of the Tamsui motor-highway, was passed without incident. It was a gamble, for we fully expected to have to fight our way past Japanese cruisers and destroyers and have to brush off more than one attack from aircraft, but for some reason the Fates were kind to us, for once.

Little Oscar

They're relating the one about "Little Oscar," the seven-year-old brat. Little Oscar went to the zoo and saw his first elephant. He arrived home all excited and told his mother about the animals. "Gee, mom," chorled Little Oscar, "the elephant was the craziest animal. Why you oughta see the tail he had. I saw him picking up cabbages with it." His mother smiled tolerantly and asked:

"Is that all I want?"—Jane Grant (see for yourself) he comes genuine as she thinks of them. He said to her: "Knew my Jane will soon be star of RKO Radio." They won't believe me, and in a feature role in the romantic, gay, technical colour spectacle, "Sins of the Fathers."



IS THAT ALL I WANT?—Jane Grant (see for yourself) he comes genuine as she thinks of them. He said to her: "Knew my Jane will soon be star of RKO Radio." They won't believe me, and in a feature role in the romantic, gay, technical colour spectacle, "Sins of the Fathers."

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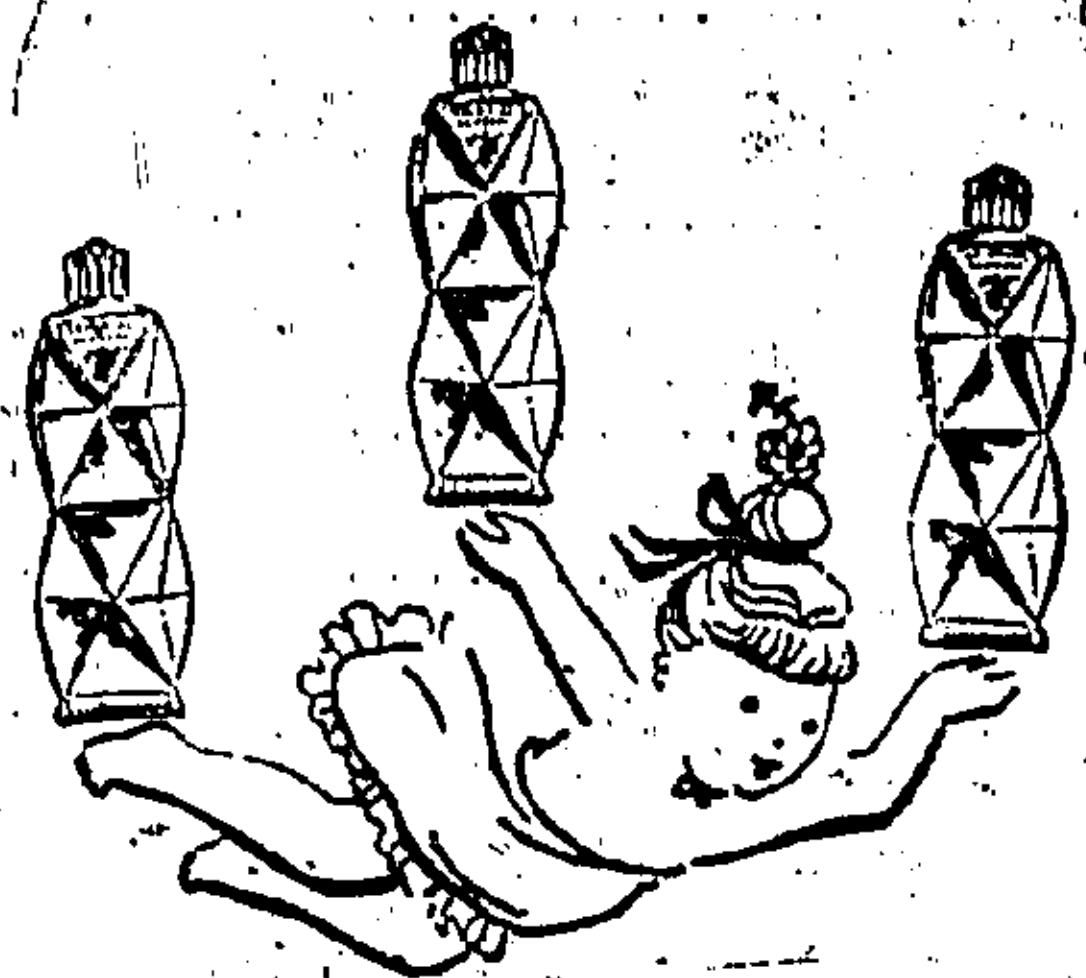
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Do You Read INTELLIGENTLY?

This questionnaire tests your knowledge of the meaning of words, how well you read, and your grasp of human conduct. If you understand the true meaning of the words, of their meaning when modified or qualified by other words, you should have no trouble in selecting the correct answer. Keep in mind that the answer is not what you would do in the situation described, or what you think the subject should do. It is what the persons described would do.

The perfect score is 100. Deduct ten points for each question you answer incorrectly. (Correct answers below.)

EXAMPLE

Julia is pretty, with red hair, a beautiful figure, and a knowledge of herself and her interest in men. She is also fragile and conversationally inept. When buying clothes would Julia:

Select scarlet dresses? (Not with red hair.)

Purchase dashing sports clothes? (Most decidedly.)

Go in for mannish business suits? (No. Can't fulfil mental expectations.)

Get any old thing? (No. Too many men in circulation.)

Easy, isn't it? Start here:

1. Unquestionably versatile, born for a career and sure of it, Agnes is infatuated with her domineering fiancé, who deprecates her singing, writing and radio work, because he thinks her voice is off key, her writing morbid, her ideas socialistic. When he suggests that she becomes his secretary, would Agnes:

Break the engagement?

Content herself with writing advertising copy?

Sing only under cover of the chorus?

Broadcast only in character?

Accept the secretarial position?

2. Bob's facetious, unorthodox attitude covers a hidden philosophy that creates an incomplete novel which is accepted by a leading magazine. A flat purse precludes the requisite sojourn in the publisher's city; the loan of a friend's one windowed studio permits it. But lovely Daphne, who lives to dress, never draws the blinds of the window opposite. Would Bob:

Give up the novel he can't keep his mind on?

Write to Daphne—"Adorable Lady, I'll give you half my author's profits if you'll pull down the shades?"

Make Daphne the heroine of a new novel?

Draw his own curtains, write on the floor by electric light?

Jump out of the window?

3. Lee's personally financed business sky-rocketed under his adroit, imaginative resourcefulness until the capital is exhausted. He and his wife bluff a financier who is financing a merger with lavish entertainment and a dazzling display of extravagant clothes. With their last dollar they join the financier's bridge party, to find the stakes five dollars a point. Would Lee:

Play, face inability to pay a heavy loss?

Say that playing for money is against his principles?

Refuse to play, admit his bluff, place himself at the financier's mercy?

Claim that he's rotten at bridge, refuse to play purely out of consideration for his partner?

Whisper to his husky wife to faint quickly and recover slowly?

4. Anthony's home is Broadacres, his hobby fruit trees. His carefully indulged little son confides with resentment that his school chum is pronounced worthless by the teachers. Subsequently, when the chum repeatedly steals fruit from Broadacres, Anthony's visit to the boy's family discloses a home of penury and shiftlessness. A beneficent churchgoer, would Anthony:

Have the boy arrested?

Prearrange a suspended sentence, under probation?

Turn the problem over to his pastor?

Arrange to take the boy out of his environment and pay for supervision and training?

Appeal to organized charity in behalf of the family?

5. Detering a nervous breakdown, Howard Pyke's irresponsibility is increased by a friend's financial destruction through unwarranted speculation. Long ill, Howard is introspective, secretly proud of certain charities' dependence upon his regular contributions, the funds for which he must despoil to save his friend. Would Howard:

Stick to his charities?

Save his friend—abandon his charities?

Borrow to save friend?

Split his resources—ineffectively serve both?

Wind up his affairs, retire, let everybody go to blazes?

6. Necessity forces Wilbur Carlwright to forsake an exalted existence and literary aspirations of money, money. He considers four responsive, helpless, Helen dives afternoon muskies daily. Doris is devoted to a ubiquitous, large family. Josephine must travel—under convoy, Joan is an itinerant

political leader. Wilbur shrinks from travel, music, families, and politics. Would Wilbur:

Marry Helen?

Marry Joan?

Marry Josephine?

Marry Doris?

Marry nobody?

7. Ellen, a covetous child who was irresponsible in adolescence, is concealed in maturity. Willingness to meet heavy expenses and make her salary contingent upon the show's success will star her in a Broadway play. Acceptance necessitates a nurse for her adored infant son. Her husband's business requires all their capital. Would Ellen:

Refuse the offer, become a full-time wife and mother?

Borrow heavily and gamble on the play's success?

Without other plans send the child to her sister for a year?

Rely on a cautious husband to borrow money for his business?

Complain to Actors Equity Association?

8. The impeccability of timid retiring Thaddeus belies his baneful officership in North Billings. Elation at a trip to a distant city for conferences with local moguls changes to consternation when his youthful aunt, determined and vivacious, registers at his hotel, constantly phones him to visit her room, makes repeated dashes into his. Would Thaddeus:

Thru appearances to the wind and give Aunt a time?

Offer unsolicited protests of innocence to the eagle-eyed manager?

Try to induce his aunt to move to another but inferior hotel?

Move to the inferior hotel himself?

Say he has been summoned home and postpone his conferences?

9. Mrs. Woodington punctiliously maintains her subjected husband's position in conventional North Billings. Spiritually parsimonious, she dictates the future of her complacent son Leslie. Her orthodox equanimity is shaken when she discovers that Leslie has seduced her secretary. Would Mrs. Woodington:

Talk frankly with her son and learn his intentions?

Arrange financial care of the girl and her child, help her get another position?

Discharge the girl without explanation, never reconsider the subject?

Insist that Leslie marry the secretary?

Turn Leslie over to his father?

10. Attorney Henderson's lucrative practice is confined to advice on the intimate affairs of a large clientele. Conscientious, he employs the sensitive and charming first daughter of an old but imperious friend. As a stenographer the girl is a heavy liability. Perceptively, Mr. Henderson:

Break the bad news to her father that the case is hopeless?

Ignore other work for her and employ another stenographer?

Surprisingly write his few important letters himself?

Try to place her as a stenographer in a rival's office?

ANSWERS

1. Break the engagement.

2. Write to Daphne—"Adorable Lady, I'll give you half my author's profits if you'll pull down the shades."

3. Claim that he's rotten at bridge, refuse to play purely out of consideration for his partner.

4. Arrange to take the boy out of his environment and pay for his supervision and training.

5. Wind up his affairs, retire, let everybody go to blazes.

6. Marry Joan.

7. Borrow heavily and gamble on the play's success.

8. Say he has been summoned home and postpone his conference.

9. Discharge the girl without explanation, never reconsider the subject.

10. Surprisingly write his few important letters himself.

Seer Sees No War But Plenty Of Woe In 1947

There will be no war next year, but almost every calamity short of war, will happen on this earth. Our authority is Old Moore's Almanack. I received "my copy" because the salesman reached my flat before the head porter ejected him. That porter doesn't believe in stars.

Old Moore had no successes in predicting big events during the war, but he hasn't lost faith. For months his team of petrologers has been gazing into 1947, and Old Moore has collated all their forecasts and published them.

Old Moore died last year, but his assistant has assumed his well-worn office chair in The Strand.

Princess Elizabeth?

He begins the year well with "Royal ceremonies will occupy attention, and the marriage of a woman celebrity will receive prominent headlines."

He could mean Princess Elizabeth, and then again he mightn't. That's what gets you about his advance diary.

His "death of a great leader" in August might worry Churchill and Stalin, or may be Hitler will be found alive after all and be killed.

His "death of a famous film star" in March, will doubtless have all Hollywood Elstree and

Baling looking at one another's tongues with grave surprise.

Likely Winners

January: The crime-wave will increase. A prominent official will be mixed up in a particularly undignified scandal.

March: A cataclysmic disaster abroad. Sharp comments abroad about conditions in England.

April: Grim stories of the manufacture of new weapons of war.

May: Remarkable achievements in using new materials and previously unknown sources of energy.

June: The subject of birth-control will be brought before the public in a new form.

An earthquake will devastate a foreign locality.

July: Violent disputes in legislative circles and deaths of two legislators.

September: Loss of a great ship at sea.

October: Improvement in general living conditions will soon become evident.

November: Parliamentary crisis; disquieting news from abroad and maybe a depression in financial circles. Bankruptcy of a well-known figure in the entertainment industry.

December: Influenza or similar epidemic, but science will produce remedy of outstanding success.

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Inishuative

(Continued from Page 6)

"That's better!" Grandma pushed back her chair to survey the last-emptied dining-room, after a hearty meal of turkey, ham, and plum pudding, washed down by a cup of coffee and supplemented by a chocolate ice.

"Now we'll go and choose our presents."

"Grandma, did you acknowledge plan all this?" Mrs. Buggins asked wonderingly as she unfasted the napkin she had tied round baby's chin. "Was that what you meant when you wouldn't let me bring my dinner?"

"I won't say I acknowledge planned it," Grandma's eyes twinkled. "All I done was to 'elp Fate along a bit. What anyone wants in 'is 'ard world,' she added, "is inshuative!"

6. Marry Joan.

7. Borrow heavily and gamble on the play's success.

8. Say he has been summoned home and postpone his conference.

9. Discharge the girl without explanation, never reconsider the subject.

10. Surprisingly write his few important letters himself.



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